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No. 1916

Annual Report on the Social and Economic
Progress of the People of

SIERRA LEONE, 1938

*(For Report for 1936 see No. 1829 (Price 2s. od.) and for
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I.—GEOGRAPHY, CLIMATE AND HISTORY.

Geography.

The territory comprising the Colony and Protectorate of Sierra Leone is about the size of Ireland (27,925 square miles) and lies between the 6° 55' and 10° 00' parallels of north latitude and the 10° 16' and 13° 18' meridians of west longitude. The portions administered strictly as Colony are the Sierra Leone Peninsula, Tasso Island, the Banana Islands, York Island, and the township of Bonthe on Sherbro Island. The total area amounts to some 256 square miles.

Freetown, the capital, is situated at the northern extremity of the Peninsula on a fine natural harbour which affords good anchorages close to the shore for the largest ships. The greater portion of the Peninsula is mountainous and well wooded, the conical peaks, of which the highest is Picket Hill (2,912 feet), being visible for great distances at certain seasons of the year.

The Protectorate (27,669 square miles) is well watered by a network of rivers and streams, the general direction of flow being from north-east to south-west. Most of the rivers have wide estuaries; and, although none of them is navigable for ocean-going steamers, several of them provide useful waterways for lesser craft, particularly during the wet season.

If the mountainous peninsula be excepted, the Colony and Protectorate as a whole may be described generally as being flat and low-lying in the south and west and broken and elevated in the north and east, where altitudes of over 6,000 feet have been recorded in the Loma and Tingi mountains. The nature of the vegetation varies considerably. South of the $8^{\circ} 30'$ parallel of north latitude dense bush country (originally tropical forest) is as a rule encountered; but this gives place as one travels northwards to more open or "orchard bush" country.

Climate.

The climate of Sierra Leone is tropical, with a heavy rainfall and high atmospheric humidity, during the greater part of the year. The rainy season lasts from May to October, and the wettest months are July, August and September. This season, which is the period of the south-west monsoon, is preceded and followed by thunderstorms, locally known as tornadoes. The general course of these storms is from east to west, and they give rise to violent electric effects. Their usual duration is from 20 to 50 minutes and the most severe usually occur in the evening, or early hours of the morning.

In December, January and February, the north-east trades prevail. In the middle of that period a very dry wind, known as the "Harmattan," blows steadily and is accompanied by dust haze. At this time there may be hot days, but the nights are often cool.

In general, surface winds are light or moderate, exceeding a mean speed of 20 miles per hour only in thunderstorms.

Visibility is mainly good except during heavy rain when it may fall to 25 yards. During the Harmattan, inland, it falls at times to 50 yards. Along the coast, it is in general one to three miles, rarely falling below 500 to 1,000 yards. Fog is a rare occurrence.

The absolute maximum temperature recorded by meteorological observers during 1938 was 104° F. at Batkanu in March and April. An absolute minimum temperature of 56° F. was recorded at Marampa during February. At Freetown the absolute maximum was 92° F. in March and April, and the absolute minimum was 68° F. in June. The annual maximum and minimum mean temperatures were 86.3° F. and 72.6° F. respectively, computed from observations made during the last 20 years at Tower Hill, Freetown, 171 feet above mean sea-level.

The annual average rainfall for Freetown is 150·53 inches and the monthly means over a period of 57 years (1882-1938) are:—

	<i>ins.</i>		<i>ins.</i>		<i>ins.</i>		<i>ins.</i>
January,	0·34	April,	3·53	July,	34·84	October,	11·73
February,	0·27	May,	9·96	August,	35·20	November,	5·73
March,	1·08	June,	19·50	September,	27·02	December,	1·33

The rainfall is greatest on the coast and decreases inland as illustrated by the annual averages from the following rainfall stations:—

	<i>ins.</i>
Freetown (coast)	150·53
Bonthe (coast)	146·49
Kabala (about 200 miles inland)	90·55
Segbwema (about 80 miles inland)	96·76

In 1938 all rainfall stations' records showed annual total falls above normal except at Freetown (22 inches), Hill Station (17 inches), and Batkanu (6 inches).

History.

Sierra Leone, which has been known to voyagers and historians for many centuries, first became a British settlement in the latter part of the eighteenth century. The settlement was established, at the instance of a Society for the Abolition of Slavery from which sprang the Sierra Leone Company, in order to make provision for a large number of slaves who had found their way to England after the American War of 1782, and also for such slaves as might be recaptured by British ships operating against the slavers. A strip of land was acquired on the north of the Sierra Leone Peninsula, and on this site the first colonists were landed in May, 1787. These were augmented in 1792 by a large party of Africans. (freed slaves who had fought for the English in the American War of Independence) from Nova Scotia. Later, in 1800, about 550 Maroons—originally slaves who fled from their masters in Jamaica and on surrender were conveyed to Nova Scotia—were brought to Sierra Leone, and allotted lands. Similar treatment was subsequently accorded to the “Liberated Africans” who were captured slaves brought in by His Majesty's ships.

For the first few years of its existence the Colony suffered many hardships and privations through famine and disease, and was attacked three times from land by the Temnes and once from the sea by a French squadron.

On 1st January, 1808, the settlement became a Crown Colony.

Chiefly owing to slave-dealing by native chiefs and European adventurers in the neighbourhood of Freetown, the English settlement soon found it necessary to intervene in the affairs of the hinterland, and from time to time various treaties were made with the surrounding chiefs by which certain lands were

ceded to the Crown. By this means the Crown Colony was gradually extended. Several missions were also sent to more distant chiefdoms with the view to opening up trade with the interior; these were often helpful in settling inter-tribal wars, and led to an extension of British influence over the territory now embraced in the Sierra Leone Protectorate.

From 1822 to 1827 the Governors of Sierra Leone held the title of Governor-in-Chief of the West African Settlements, and in this capacity were required to visit the Gold Coast and the Gambia. It was within this period, on 21st January, 1824, that Governor Charles MacCarthy was killed in a battle against the Ashantis at Assamako in the Gold Coast. In 1827 the Gold Coast Settlements were alienated and handed over to the African Company of Merchants, but owing to reports as to connivance with the slave trade, were again placed under the Sierra Leone Government in 1843. Further changes were made in 1850 when the British territories in the Gold Coast were made a separate Government for a second time, but in 1866 the Imperial Government constituted once more what was termed the Government of the West African Settlements, comprising Sierra Leone, the Gambia, the Gold Coast, and Lagos, and the Governor of Sierra Leone became the Governor-in-Chief. Eventually a new Charter, dated 24th July, 1874, effected the separation which exists at the present time.

In 1895 an agreement for the demarcation of the northern boundary between the British and French spheres of influence and interests was ratified, and in 1896 the hinterland of Sierra Leone was declared a Protectorate and divided into administrative districts.

The year 1898 was marked by an insurrection in the Protectorate as the result of the imposition of a house tax. The resulting military operations were brought to a successful conclusion early in the following year, and since that date the Protectorate has remained peaceful.

II.—GOVERNMENT.

Constitution.

The Dependency of Sierra Leone consists of two parts, of which one is Colony and the other Protectorate.

The Colony of Sierra Leone is what is generally, if not very accurately, spoken of as a Crown Colony as opposed to a self-governing Colony. Its constitution is to be found in the following Prerogative Instruments:—

(1) Letters Patent passed under the Great Seal of the United Kingdom, dated the 28th day of January, 1924.

(2) Instructions passed under the Royal Sign Manual and Signet and dated the 28th day of January, 1924, as amended by additional Instructions dated the 19th day of January, 1929.

(3) The Order of the King in Council, entitled the Sierra Leone (Legislative Council) Order in Council, dated the 16th day of January, 1924, as amended by Orders of the King in Council dated respectively the 27th day of June, 1927, the 21st day of December, 1928, and the 29th day of June, 1931.

So far as the Protectorate of Sierra Leone is concerned, the Constitutional Instrument under which it is governed is the Order of the King in Council, entitled the Sierra Leone Protectorate Order in Council, 1924, dated 16th January, 1924, passed by virtue of the powers conferred by the Foreign Jurisdiction Act, 1890.

The Government of both the Colony and Protectorate is administered by a Governor and Commander-in-Chief (who in Sierra Leone is also a Vice-Admiral) appointed by Commission under the Royal Sign Manual and Signet.

The Executive Council ordinarily consists of five members, namely, the officers performing for the time being the duties of the Colonial Secretary, Attorney-General, Colonial Treasurer, the Director of Medical Services, and the Commissioner of the Northern Province of the Protectorate.

The Legislative Council consists—

- (1) of the Governor as President;
- (2) of official members—viz., the members of the Executive Council, the Commissioner of the Southern Province of the Protectorate, the Comptroller of Customs, the Director of Public Works, the Director of Education, the General Manager of the Railway, and the Director of Agriculture;
- (3) of nominated unofficial members, of whom there may not be more than seven. Of these nominated members three must be Paramount Chiefs of the Protectorate. Of the remaining four, one represents general European interests in the community; the other European nominated member is appointed after consultation with the Chamber of Commerce. The remaining two nominated members represent African interests;
- (4) of three elected members, of whom two are elected by the Urban and one by the Rural Electorate District of the Colony.

Unofficial members hold their seats for five years, and nominated unofficial members are eligible to be re-appointed for a further term not exceeding five years.

There is power vested in the Governor to appoint persons to be extraordinary members upon any special occasion and to make provisional appointments on a vacancy in the seat of a nominated unofficial member.

The Governor presides over the Legislative Council, and questions therein are decided by a majority of votes, the Governor having an original vote as well as a casting vote.

It should be noted that the Legislative Council of Sierra Leone (like those of the Colonies of the Gambia and Kenya) has the power of legislating for the Protectorate as well as for the Colony, and that, in spite of the powers vested in the Governor and Legislative Council, the Letters Patent and the Sierra Leone Order in Council, 1924, expressly reserve to the Crown the power of legislating by Order in Council for the Colony and Protectorate, respectively.

Political Administration.

For administrative purposes Sierra Leone is commonly, though as will be seen later, not accurately, spoken of as being divided into hard-and-fast divisions—namely, Colony and Protectorate.

The Colony is British territory acquired by purchase or concession under treaties entered into from time to time with native Chiefs and tribal authorities, ranging in date from 1807, when the first valid cession of the Peninsula was made, till 1872, when a portion of Koya or Quiah, previously ceded to the Crown, was re-ceded to the Chiefs and people.

COLONY.

That part of the Colony administered as such consists virtually of the whole of the Peninsula of Sierra Leone with the adjacent Tasso and Banana Islands, and the town of Bonthe on Sherbro Island, and of York Island. It is administered by these three authorities:—

- (1) The Freetown City Council.
- (2) The Rural Areas Administration.
- (3) The Sherbro Judicial District Board.

Freetown Municipality.—The city of Freetown itself is governed by the “City Council of Freetown” pursuant to and in accordance with the Freetown Municipality Ordinance, 1927; but various so-called Tribal Headmen in Freetown have certain administrative powers over the natives of the aboriginal tribes who reside in the capital. The Police District of Freetown consists of the north-western portion of the Peninsula, and it is bounded on the south and south-west by the Adonkia Creek, and a line drawn from its source to a point between Allen Town and Grafton and from thence along Hastings Creek to the Rokell River.

Rural Areas Administration.—The Rural Areas comprise the whole of the Colony Peninsula, with the exception of the Freetown Municipality. The locality is divided into four areas, each of which is administered by a salaried Rural Commissioner

employed by the Rural Areas Administration, assisted by an elected Advisory Committee of five members. The Rural Commissioners are subordinate to the President, Rural Areas Council, who, for purposes of general administration, is also the District Commissioner of the Headquarters District who lives at Waterloo. Unlike other Districts, the Commissioner of the Headquarters District is not subordinate to a Provincial Commissioner and corresponds direct with the Colonial Secretary.

The Rural Areas Council is the local governing body for the administration of the Colony Peninsula. In addition to the President, it consists of one member elected from each of the Rural Areas, four members of the Civil Service nominated by the Governor, and one other person also nominated by the Governor. Its functions approximate to those of an English County Council. It prepares annual estimates for the consideration of the Governor in Council, and has power to acquire and hold property, and to take all measures necessary for the health, order and good government of the Rural Areas.

For judicial purposes the Rural Areas are divided into two Magisterial districts, viz.:—

(a) The Police District already mentioned which comprises the Wilberforce and Kissy Areas in addition to the Freetown Municipality;

(b) The Headquarters Judicial District, comprising Waterloo and York areas.

The Police Magistrate is Magistrate of the Police District while the District Commissioner is *ex officio* Magistrate of the Headquarters Judicial District, although the Police Magistrate is an additional Magistrate of that district and performs the greater part of the judicial functions.

Sherbro Judicial District.—The Bonthe District consists of Sherbro Island, Turtle Island, York Island, and the 14 following chiefdoms on the mainland, viz., Baiama Krim, Bekowa, Bendu, Bum, Cha, Imperi, Jong, Kakpenda, Kemo, Kwako Krim, Mesi Krim, Nongoba Bullom, Sogbini and Yawma, all of which were ceded to the British Crown by various treaties at different times. It is administered by a District Commissioner who is subordinate to the Commissioner of the Southern Province of the Protectorate, and it should be noted, as will be seen later, that whereas the whole of the Police District of Freetown and the Headquarters Judicial District are administered as Colony, by far the greater part of the Sherbro Judicial District is administered as Protectorate.

The town of Bonthe (on Sherbro Island) and York Island are the constituents of the Port of Sherbro, by far the most important commercial and maritime centre in Sierra Leone

after Freetown itself. The population of these two places consists largely of natives of the Colony and mainland and of Europeans engaged in commerce. The mode of administering Bonthe, York Island, and the small islands adjacent thereto, which together constitute what is called the Sherbro Judicial District, is on this account precisely similar to that employed in the Headquarters Judicial District of the Colony.

Outside the town of Bonthe, however, the whole of Sherbro Island has a largely aboriginal native population, divided into two chiefdoms—namely, Dema and Sitia—and the 14 mainland chiefdoms have a similar native population.

Administration on purely Colony lines being impracticable, the whole of the Bonthe District outside the narrow limits of the Sherbro Judicial District is administered exactly as is the Protectorate.

Parts of the Colony treated as Protectorate.—Those parts of the Colony which are, for all administrative purposes, treated as Protectorate, consist, in the first place, of a strip of coastline of varying width acquired at different periods before the proclamation of the Protectorate for purposes of Customs control.

Secondly, there is one other area which is in fact Colony administered as Protectorate; this is the Baki Loko territory, acquired by a treaty of 1825.

PROTECTORATE.

The hinterland of Sierra Leone, an area of some 26,000 square miles, was declared a British Protectorate in 1896, and the necessary legislative steps were taken to provide for its administration.

For some years, it was for political reasons, divided into a varying number of Districts and in 1919 it consisted of the following five Districts, viz., Koinadugu, Karene, Railway, Ronietta and Northern Sherbro. Each District was controlled by a District Commissioner, holding direct communication with the Secretariat in Freetown, aided by a small staff of Assistant District Commissioners, to each of whom he allocated such duties or such geographical spheres of activity as he thought fit. This division of the Protectorate was found, however, to be defective in practice, as it led to much duplication of work, and to the lack of both uniformity and continuity of policy. In order, therefore, to remedy these defects, as well as to bring the political division of the country into closer accord with the racial distribution of its inhabitants, the Protectorate was, in 1920, divided into three provinces, designated respectively the Northern, containing more or less the area formerly known as the Karene and Koinadugu Districts; the Central, taking in the Railway District and part of the Ronietta District; and the

Southern, being composed of the Northern Sherbro District and parts of the Ronietta and Railway Districts. Each Province was placed in the charge of a Provincial Commissioner. The Provinces were divided into Districts of varying areas, each of which was controlled by a District Commissioner responsible, in his administrative capacity, to the Commissioner of the Province in which his District lay.

By the Protectorate (Administrative Divisions) Order in Council, 1930, which came into force on 1st January, 1931, those three Provinces were reduced to two, namely the Northern and Southern Provinces; and the Order in Council under reference sets out:—

- (a) the respective boundaries of these two Provinces;
- (b) the Districts of which they consist; and
- (c) the native chiefdoms comprised in each of those Districts.

Each district is sub-divided into chiefdoms, owned and administered by their respective tribal authorities, i.e., their Paramount Chiefs in association with the elders or principal men of the respective chiefdoms.

The division of the Protectorate into Provinces and of the Provinces into Districts is arbitrary, and has been dictated by considerations of administrative efficiency, due regard being paid to the necessity for including in one District, where possible, chiefdoms comprising one tribe or section of a tribe. The boundaries of the chiefdoms, however, are fixed by prehistoric tradition and native custom, and although disputes constantly arise as to sections of inter-chiefdom boundaries (indeed the settlement of boundary disputes forms an important part of the work of a Political Officer), the Government does not interfere with chiefdom boundaries unless invited to do so. The chiefdoms vary in size from the considerable area of Tambaka Yobanji in the Kambia District to the smallness of the Yabai Krim in the Pujehun District, i.e. from approximately 500 square miles to about 20 square miles.

Each chiefdom is entirely separate and independent, and although there is natural cohesion between chiefdoms composed of the same tribe and situated in the same locality, no Paramount Chief can claim pre-eminence over other Paramount Chiefs of the same tribe, either by reason of the area of his chiefdom, the wealth of his people, or the antiquity of his house. At any meeting of the Paramount Chiefs of a District, pride of place would naturally be given to those whom age or, more especially length of reign entitled to that honour at the hands of their brother Chiefs, but the conferring of that mark of respect implies no relationship of superiority and subordination. The several chiefdoms are well defined and have no official inter-relationship whatever, with this exception, that independent and distinterested Paramount Chiefs of the same tribe may be called upon

to act as assessors in the settlement of any "palaver" which the Tribal Authority of a chiefdom find themselves unable to settle unaided. They may be invited to act in this capacity either at the instance of a Provincial or District Commissioner, or at that of the Paramount Chief in whose chiefdom the dispute has arisen.

The Tribal Authority of a chiefdom is the sole owner of the land within that chiefdom, and this principle of native law and custom, which is uniform throughout the Protectorate, has been consistently and actively supported by Government.

Native Administrations.—The initiation of a system of Native Administration in the early months of 1937 was extended during the year in review and about 50 Chiefdoms containing half the population of the Protectorate have adopted that form of local government. The Tribal Authorities Ordinance, No. 8 of 1937, constituted the office of Tribal Authorities, which are based on existing Chiefdoms. The Chiefdom Treasuries Ordinance, No. 11 of 1937, made provision for the establishment of Chiefdom Treasuries, and the Chiefdom Tax Ordinance, No. 10 of 1937, imposed an annual Chiefdom Tax in those Chiefdoms or groups of Chiefdoms for which a treasury had been established. This tax takes the place of the tribute or customary levies in cash, kind, or farm labour formerly paid to the Paramount Chiefs. Certain amendments to the Protectorate Courts Jurisdiction Ordinance, No. 40 of 1932, were also sanctioned in 1937, which not only brought Native Court procedure more into line with that of other Colonies but also introduced Group Native Appeal Courts. These changes have been favourably received and it is noticed already that the natives affected by them evince a growing interest in local expenditure and in the framing of their Chiefdom budgets.

Functions of Political Officers.—The functions of a Political Officer are three-fold in nature: administrative, judicial, and departmental; but his departmental duties are so wedded to those that are purely administrative that it will be convenient to consider those duties together and separately from those of a judicial nature.

In his administrative capacity the District Commissioner (and, a fortiori, the Provincial Commissioner) is the representative of the Colonial Government in that portion of the Protectorate committed to his administrative charge. He is the guide, philosopher, and friend to the Paramount Chiefs, the Tribal Authority and the people. He is at once the support of the recognized native authority, the upholder of its prestige, and the protector of the poor against oppression by their rulers. He is the mouthpiece of the Government, and the interpreter and demonstrator of its policy. The introduction of Native Administration or local government in some chiefdoms entails

a degree of supervision in their initial stages especially in matters regarding the Chiefdom Treasuries and Courts.

A District Commissioner's departmental duties in reality form a part of his administrative duties. He is responsible for the collection of Government revenue in his District, derived from (a) house tax and (b) the issue of licences for stores, hawkers, vendors of spirit, fire-arms, etc. He is the propagandist officer who is the coadjutor to the technical officers of the Agricultural and Forestry Departments; he supervises sanitation on behalf of the Health Department; he oversees the general conduct of the post offices and agencies; he keeps a wary eye on the Customs frontiers and seaboard; he controls the management of the gaols; he advises the Education Department and assists in its propaganda; he supervises the erection of native buildings required for official purposes; he facilitates the progress through his District of any officers whose duties require them to travel through it; in short, he has ancillary duties to perform on behalf of practically every Government Department in the Colony.

The judicial duties and powers of a Political Officer are fully dealt with under Chapter XIII, to which reference is invited.

III.—POPULATION.

Colony.—The total population of the Colony according to the census of 1931 was 96,422, the racial distributions being as follows:—

<i>Race.</i>	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>	<i>Percentage of Total Population.</i>
African native tribes	36,914	24,869	61,783	64.08
African non-natives—Sierra Leoneans	14,438	18,408	32,846	34.06
Other African non-natives ...	583	346	929	0.96
Asiatics... ..	309	135	444	0.46
Europeans	308	112	420	0.44
Totals	52,552	43,870	96,422	100.00

Protectorate.—The total population of the Protectorate according to the 1931 census was 1,672,058, of which 796,392 were males and 875,666 were females, and consisted of African native tribes, African non-natives, Asiatics and Europeans.

The total European population of the Protectorate was 231, of which 173 were males and 58 were females. Of this total 142 were British, other Europeans numbering 89, in which were included 34 Americans.

The total Asiatic population of the Protectorate was 772—577 males and 195 females. These included 754 Syrians, 16 Arabs, and 2 Indians.

African non-natives in the Protectorate numbered 3,265, 1,765 being males and 1,500 females. These included Sierra Leoneans for the most part and a few West Indians, Liberians, American Negroes, persons classed at the census as Nigerians, Gold Coasters, and Mulattoes. Of the total shown, Sierra Leoneans numbered 3,046.

Nationalities and Tribes.

The following table shows the various nationalities and tribes amongst the African population of the Colony and Protectorate, and the number in each case at the 1931 census.

<i>Nationality or Tribe.</i>	<i>Colony.</i>	<i>Protectorate.</i>	<i>Total.</i>	<i>Percentage of Total African Population.</i>
Sierra Leoneans	32,846	3,046	35,892	2·04
Other African non-natives ...	929	219	1,148	0·07
Temne	21,431	472,258	493,689	27·95
Mende	10,258	568,788	579,046	32·78
Limba	6,957	138,714	145,671	8·24
Loko	5,228	57,152	62,380	3·52
Bullom and Sherbro	4,634	139,101	143,735	8·15
Susu	2,391	43,210	45,601	2·58
Mandingo	1,988	14,081	16,069	0·91
Fula	1,330	15,523	16,853	0·96
Kono	604	68,521	69,125	3·92
Gallinas (or Vai)	673	19,865	20,538	1·16
Koranko	157	44,203	44,360	2·52
Kissi	170	34,810	34,980	1·32
Yalunka	73	16,066	16,139	0·92
Krim	41	20,639	20,680	1·18
Gola	—	8,509	8,509	0·50
Gbande	—	1,131	1,131	0·07
Fanti	125	—	125	0·01
Joloff	181	—	181	0·01
Sarakuli	122	—	122	0·01
Kroo	4,481	—	4,481	0·29
Bassa	512	—	512	0·04
Miscellaneous	427	5,219	5,646	0·33
Totals	95,558	1,671,055	1,766,613	—

Geographical Distribution.—The main geographical distribution of the African population was as follows:—

	<i>Freetown.</i>	<i>Colony other than Freetown.</i>	<i>Protectorate.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Sierra Leoneans	20,970	11,876	3,046	35,892
Other African non-natives ...	784	145	219	1,148
Tribes	32,919	28,864	1,667,790	1,729,573
Total African population ...				1,766,613

Migration.

During the year 1938, 243 Syrians entered and 215 left the Colony by sea. In all there were 2,792 immigrants and 2,323 emigrants. The total numbers of European immigrants and emigrants other than British subjects were 176 and 160 respectively.

Births and Deaths.

The figures for (a) births and (b) deaths for the Colony for 1938 are as follows:—

(a)	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
	1,273	1,263	2,536

(b)	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
	1,403	1,180	2,583

Infantile Mortality—

<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>	<i>Rate per 1,000</i>
281	271	552	217

These figures are of little actual statistical value. The census of 1931 showed the population of the Colony to be 96,422 persons of whom 55,358 lived in Freetown.

It is not possible to calculate the present population with any accuracy.

Marriages.

The numbers of marriages as shown by the registers for 1938 are:—

		<i>Free- town.</i>	<i>Village areas. (Colony).</i>	<i>Head- quarters District. (Colony).</i>	<i>Bonthe (Colony).</i>	<i>Protec- torate.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Christian ...	...	171	24	12	9	36	252
Civil ...	...	2	—	—	—	1	3
Mohammedan ...	...	15	1	—	—	—	16
Totals	...	188	25	12	9	37	271

Only figures for Christian and Civil marriages are available for the Protectorate. There is no registration of marriage by "Native Custom."

IV.—HEALTH.

General Health of the Population.

There was no great change in the general health of the population. The appended comparative table of hospital attendances is not, of course, an accurate index of the prevalence of each disease mentioned, particularly in the case of communicable diseases, from which the population suffers the most disability and to which it has a varying degree of resistance.

<i>Disease.</i>	<i>1937</i>	<i>1938</i>
Malaria	10,232	11,132
Yaws	9,312	7,630
Acute Rheumatism	—	7
Chronic Rheumatism	9,479	9,213
Hemiplegia	134	125
Conjunctivitis	951	1,091
Affections of the ear	1,289	1,091
Haemorrhoids	99	138
Lymphadenitis (bubo non-specific)	724	758
Coryza	1,328	1,463
Acute Bronchitis	6,351	7,362
Chronic Bronchitis	7,358	7,420
Asthma	203	235
Caries, pyorrhoea, etc.	1,826	2,110
Gastritis	395	572
Dyspepsia	4,074	3,380
Diarrhoea and enteritis	1,793	1,932
Ankylostomiasis	395	555
Hernia	994	1,032
Constipation	8,649	11,112
Acute Nephritis	81	133
Schistosomiasis	72	47
Epididymitis	50	44
Orchitis	246	284
Hydrocele	327	315
Abscess	731	945
Scabies	1,792	1,962
Eczema	393	402
Osteitis	417	502
Arthritis	1,553	2,280
Wounds (by cutting or stabbing instruments)	1,350	1,457
Fracture	251	250
Other external injuries	6,169	5,385
Asthenia	845	707
Syphilis	566	1,469
Gonorrhoea	3,172	3,708
Avitaminosis	2,186	2,624

Mortality.

The figures mentioned below apply to Freetown including Cline Town and are only moderately accurate. The Protectorate figures are not available.

The number of deaths registered in Freetown on medical certificates was 468 corresponding to 33.9 per cent. of total

registrations. The absence of a Medical Officer or Dispenser in a number of areas in the rest of the Colony renders the figures from such places outside Freetown unreliable.

Principal Causes of Deaths, 1938.

Causes.	Freetown (including Cline Town), 1,378.	
	Number.	Percentage.
Bronchitis and Pneumonia	296	21·4
Malaria	120	8·7
Dysentery, Diarrhoea and Enteritis	110	7·9
Tuberculosis (all forms)	102	7·4
Senility	77	5·5
Prematurity	53	3·8
Nephritis	42	3·0
Valvular disease	40	2·9
Hemiplegia	22	1·5
Congenital Debility	22	1·5
Convulsions	11	·7
Septicæmia	11	·7

Provision for Treatment.

The Government hospital facilities within the Colony consist of the Connaught Hospital, Freetown, and the Government Hospital Bonthe. A comparison of the figures in the past two years is given below.

Connaught Hospital :—

	1937.	1938.
In-patients	2,512	2,760
Out-patients—new cases	17,676	15,840
Subsequent attendances	108,832	80,421
Operations	2,128	2,526

Bonthe Hospital :—

	1937.	1938.
In-patients	466	499
Out-patients—new cases	4,080	5,484
Subsequent attendances	17,054	21,292

The Protectorate Hospital, Pujehun, is now being reconstructed.

Particulars of attendances, etc., at Protectorate Hospitals of a new type are as follows:—

Protectorate Hospital Bo, Southern Province—

	1937.	1938.
In-patients	354	400
Out-patients—new cases	4,046	4,288
Subsequent attendances	16,206	17,863

Protectorate Hospital Moyamba, Southern Province—

	1937.	1938.
In patients	163	150
Out-patients—new cases	2,460	3,322
Subsequent attendances	4,344	5,321

Protectorate Hospital Kailahun, Southern Province :—

	1937.	1938.
In-patients	—	182
Out-patients new cases	—	2,108
Subsequent attendances	—	9,899

Protectorate Hospital Makeni, Northern Province—

	1937.	1938.
In-patients	239	281
Out-patients—new cases	4,479	4,641
Subsequent attendances	11,692	9,893

Protectorate Hospital Port Loko, Northern Province—

	1937.	1938.
In-patients	205	182
Out-patients—new cases	4,105	2,108
Subsequent attendances	12,540	9,899

Dispensaries.—There are now eight in the Colony and 16 in the Protectorate.

Ante-natal, Maternity and Child Welfare work is being maintained, and the new hospital is nearing completion.

	<i>Connaught Hospital and Maternity Centre, Oxford Street.</i>		<i>Princess Christian Mission Hospital.</i>	
	1937.	1938.	1937.	1938.
Ante-natal attendances	6,414	7,020	904	1,149
Labour cases admitted	537	545	25	48
Health visits	9,325	17,722	3,383	16,729
Infant Welfare clinic attendances ...	13,601	13,648	4,180	5,354

Public Health Note.

The progress of sanitation is being maintained.

Smallpox.—A table is subjoined showing the total of cases and deaths for 1938 and the number of vaccinations carried out. The figures in 1937 were 134, 1 and 37,952.

<i>Area.</i>	<i>Number of cases discovered.</i>	<i>Number of Deaths.</i>	<i>Number of Vaccinations</i>
<i>Colony Districts :—</i>			
Freetown	—	—	30,173
Headquarters Judicial	—	—	2,312
Bonthe	1	—	537
<i>Protectorate Districts :—</i>			
<i>Northern Province—</i>			
Port Loko	—	—	1,342
Karene	—	—	219
Bombali	—	—	1,886
Koinadugu... ..	3	—	360
Tonkolili	7	—	1,901
<i>Southern Province—</i>			
Kailahun	24	—	4,333
Kenema	1	—	1,070
Kono	8	—	724
Bo	9	—	1,513
Moyamba	—	—	1,708
Pujehun	2	—	596
Sherbro	—	—	807
	55	—	49,481

An outbreak occurred at Kailahun District in April, and was dealt with in the usual way, 4,333 vaccinations being performed.

V.—HOUSING.

Freetown and Colony.

Colony.—The majority of the wage-earning population of Freetown and the larger towns of the Colony occupy timber-framed houses with concrete or stone and mortar dwarf walls roofed with corrugated iron sheets or palm-tile thatch. The floors are either of concrete or of native timber boarding, and window openings are fitted with glazed casements or boarded hinged shutters according to the means of the occupant.

The artisan class, as a rule, own their houses, whereas the unskilled labouring class usually rent one or two rooms in a compound for themselves and their families.

There are no Building Societies in Freetown, but a scheme inaugurated by the City Council enables houseowners and prospective houseowners to borrow money for the purpose of improving existing buildings and erecting new ones. Under this arrangement approximately 40 new houses have been erected at a cost of about £17,000.

The Freetown Improvement Ordinance regulates the construction, standard of maintenance and demolition of unsafe buildings in Freetown. These regulations are applied by a staff of Building Inspectors in the Public Works Department: action is being taken to bring them up to date.

Simple building regulations have been instituted for the control of dwellings in the rural areas.

Protectorate.

In the Protectorate the great majority of houses of the wage-earning classes are built of wattle and mud daub with palm-tile or grass thatch roofs—and this form of construction is frequently also adopted by Europeans both official and unofficial. In the Protectorate, as a rule, the occupier is the owner, though in the larger towns there is always a floating population which rents the accommodation required.

VI.—NATURAL RESOURCES.

Minerals.

Minerals occurring in economic quantities in Sierra Leone are gold, diamonds, iron ore, platinum, chromite and possibly ilmenite. Export of the first five minerals were made during the year.

Production for 1938 is compared with that for the two previous years in the following table:—

	<i>Gold : crude and unrefined gold bullion (ozs. troy).</i>	<i>Platinum coarse crude (ozs. troy).</i>	<i>Diamonds (carats).</i>	<i>Iron ore exports (tons).</i>	<i>Chromite exports (tons).</i>	<i>Estimated value. £</i>
1936 ...	40,764	484	616,200	566,595	—	1,248,695
1937 ...	39,151	308	913,401	633,985	729	1,666,102
1938 ...	32,980	180	689,622	861,955	1,300	1,697,582

The area of ground under mineral development at the end of the year consisted of 84,170 acres under mining lease titles and 131,495 yards of stream under mining right titles together with a further 143.75 acres and 97,650 yards of stream under application respectively for mining leases and mining rights in respect of which permission has been granted to mine prior to grant of title.

Gold.—It is likely that the production of alluvial gold reached its peak during 1936. The output for the year 1938 reached 32,980 ounces of an estimated value of £216,803 which is a decline on the previous year's production of 39,151 ounces. Gold has as yet only been produced from alluvial sources, but prospecting for lode has been continued. Attention has recently been turned to the possibility of dredging in the bigger rivers and an amount of work has been done in this connexion.

Mining continued actively in the districts previously worked—namely, Tonkolili and Karene in the Northern Province and Bo, Kailahun and Kono in the Southern Province. In addition one mining right each was worked in Koinadugu District, Northern Province and Kenema District, Southern Province.

Diamonds.—This industry continued in a satisfactory state. The output for the year was 689,622 carats which is considerably less than that for 1937 which was 913,401 carats. A large proportion of the diamonds are of gem quality and reserves are considerable. As a result future prospects are bright. Diamond mining is confined to the Kono District.

Iron Ore.—The output for the year was 861,955 tons which shows an increase over last year when the production was 633,985 tons. The company concerned has erected a concentration plant at Marampa for dealing with powder ore and work on loading facilities for handling the concentrates at Pepel is now in progress.

A survey for the proposed extension of the railway from Marampa to the Tonkolili area was completed some time ago, but the construction has not yet commenced and it may be some time before the enormous Tonkolili deposits are exploited.

Platinum.—A few individuals were engaged in a small way. The output amounted to 180 ounces as against 308 ounces for last year. It is being mined in the Colony.

Chromite.—An Exclusive Prospecting Licence has been granted in respect of this mineral and tests are being carried out. A quantity of chromite was shipped in order to test the quality of the ore and to explore the market for it. It is proposed to apply for a mining lease over the area proved to contain workable deposits. The chromite deposit is in Kenema District.

Ilmenite.—No interest was shown in the ilmenite sands in the Colony.

General.—Gold mining is carried out by companies, syndicates and individuals. The alluvial deposits in the streams of gold and platinum are very suitable for individual operators. The diamonds are mined by a company which holds a monopoly for their exploitation. The base metal deposits require large scale capital interests for their development and working.

The haematite deposits at Marampa are mined under a concession granted by the Tribal Authority of the Marampa Chiefdom. Diamonds, gold and platinum are mined under mining lease titles and mining right titles. The chromite was taken from ground the subject of an exclusive prospecting licence and exported by permission under the Minerals Ordinance.

Mining leases may be of several kinds dependent on the nature and mode of occurrence of the mineral in respect of which they are taken up and the mineral rent, period of tenure and allowable area vary according to the kind of lease. Mining rights are of one kind only and are intended for ground the mineral bearing qualities of which are not such as to justify a mining lease. Permission to mine may be granted pending the grant of title to a mining lease or mining right. Water rights may be taken up to allow of the working of mining properties.

For mining leases, mining rights and water rights, mineral rents and water rents respectively are payable to the Crown and such rents from properties in the Protectorate are placed to the credit of a Protectorate Mining Benefits Fund: surface rents and compensation for surface damage are payable to and apportioned between the landowner and Paramount Chief of the chiefdom in which the mining property is located.

Mining is restricted in certain areas.

There was no recorded local consumption of the minerals produced.

Agricultural Produce.

The total area of Sierra Leone is 27,925 square miles. The general system of agriculture is that known as "shifting cultivation" and it is impossible to estimate with any accuracy the area under annual cultivation. The chief crop is rice, both upland and wetland. Others of importance are cassava, "fundi" (*Digitaria exilis*), groundnuts, sweet potato, and ginger.

Formerly a large proportion of the country was covered by high forest, but not more than 2-5 per cent. is now under this type of vegetation. Some 40-50 per cent. is under secondary bush, varying from 3 to 20 years of age, according to population density and marketing facilities, which are the chief factors determining demand for farming land; this type of bush is the source of the main export crops, chiefly oil palm, kola, ginger and cacao. 35-45 per cent. is under orchard bush and grass; about two-thirds of this is farmed by the shifting cultivation method; the remainder, although affording grazing to some extent, is unsuitable by reason of the soil conditions for any agricultural uses. Land which is swampy, either permanently or in the rainy season only, accounts for some 10-20 per cent. of the total area; at present about one-tenth is under annual rice cultivation. *Raphia* palms are common in many swamps not cleared for rice and provide piassava for export and many products for local use.

Along the coast fishing is an important local industry and cured fish from this source are an important item of food in all parts of the country enjoying good transport facilities. The production of salt is a minor industry in some of the estuaries.

The area devoted to mineral production is relatively small, and future development is unlikely to interfere seriously with agricultural lands.

As to future development and improvement of land suitable for agriculture: apart from swamps there is practically no unused land which can be profitably brought under cultivation. An increasing population, settled conditions and improved marketing facilities have brought about a demand for agricultural land which has resulted in the shortening of the fallow (bush regrowth) period. The bush, and with it soil fertility, is rapidly deteriorating and the area required annually to maintain production is increasing steadily. The heavy rainfall, and attendant soil erosion and leaching, have so far prevented the evolution of any satisfactory system of intensive farming. If the destruction of bush is not checked it is obvious that not only will food production suffer but the Colony's chief exports, oil palm products, kola and cocoa, will be in great danger.

Future development will therefore depend largely on the satisfactory conservation of bush—it is thought that a regrowth period of about 10 years between croppings will be necessary—and the fuller utilization of swamp land for food production, chiefly rice. It has already been stated that only about one-tenth of the existing swamp land is utilized, for rice in the rainy season and, where conditions are favourable, for sweet potato and vegetable crops in the dry season. Farmers are being encouraged and assisted to develop the swamps; steady progress

is being made and there is reason to believe that a fairly large proportion of the swamp area can be utilized by present methods and practically all where and when economic pressure makes drainage and irrigation profitable.

During the latter part of the year under review agricultural surveys were started which comprise the Colony Peninsula and the extensive coastal swamp area between the Ribbi and Bagru rivers in the Southern Province.

FOOD CROPS.

Rice.—The 1938 crop was well above normal and it is anticipated that there will be a surplus for export in 1939. In this connexion it should be clearly understood that the principal rice harvest extends roughly from October to January and that the effect of any one season is not felt on the market till the following year. It is thought that while the season and the upland farms (which depend entirely on the season) were above normal, the swamp areas also showed an increase in production and it is estimated that the market recently created by the rapid growth of the mining industry will be fully supplied by local production and a surplus available for export.

It is impossible to give more than the roughest estimate of the annual rice production since no statistics exist, but judging from the population, and the place that rice fills in the diet of the people, it is estimated that production in a normal year approximates to 175,000 tons of paddy.

Efforts are being made to increase the production of this crop in the wetland areas in order to relieve the pressure on the dry-land farms for rice. In the Scarcies swamp area the Government has introduced improved varieties of rice which give bigger yields of good quality rice. G.E.B. 24, which was mentioned in the 1936 report, is increasing rapidly and has become established in the market as the foremost of the local rices. It commands a small premium.

The rice cleaning mill which started in 1936 at Cline Town milled 11,896 bushels that year. In 1937 some 29,863 bushels were milled and milling was only restricted by difficulties with regard to parboiling and storage. These difficulties were to some extent overcome in 1938 when 39,900 bushels were cleaned. The proper cleaning of rice is much appreciated by local consumers and a substantial premium can be obtained for properly cleaned rice.

As anticipated in the last Annual Report there was no shortage of rice during 1938 but on the contrary there was a surplus for export and during the last two or three months of the year 355 tons of rice were exported.

Food Crops other than rice.—The production of these, of which the most important are digitaria, cassava, groundnut and sweet potato, was not hindered by the season, and the total production was well up to normal.

EXPORT CROPS.

Palm Kernels.—63,697 tons of palm kernels valued at £457,030 were exported in 1938. The fall in quantity was undoubtedly due to the fact that producers were discouraged by the low price. Kernels are not consumed locally so that when the price of kernels is low, native cultivators try other methods to secure a money income.

Ginger.—2,705 tons valued at £60,679 were exported in 1938. This is a record; but owing to the large quantity exported the previous year, and the extent of the crop, the price fell considerably, with the result that, although the amount exported was increased by over 300 tons, the value of the crop was some £37,000 less. It is anticipated that in view of the large exports of ginger in 1937 and 1938 the price in 1939 will be very adversely affected. Very little ginger is used locally.

Piassava.—3,791 tons of piassava valued at £40,365 were exported. This is another record for quantity exported, but, owing to the fall in price, the total value was considerably lower. The generally healthy tone of this industry during the past few years is due to the great improvement in quality. Piassava is chiefly an export crop but is used locally on a small scale for the manufacture of fishing traps, etc.

Kola.—There was a distinct fall in the kola trade; 1,450 tons valued at £29,784 were exported and this is the lowest amount exported during the past 29 years. It is thought that this decrease is due to financial difficulties in Nigeria to which country a great deal of the kola is normally exported. Kola is also grown for local consumption and probably as much is utilized locally as is exported.

Cocoa.—Increasing amounts of cocoa are being marketed and during 1938, 384 tons valued at £5,849 were exported as compared with 265 tons in 1937. This is the largest quantity exported in any one year and the amount, although small, gives indication of the possibilities of this crop.

Coffee.—There was a slight fall in the amount of coffee exported during 1938 which amounted to 38 tons valued at £792. This is due in part to the fall in price and in part, it is thought, to increasing local consumption.

Livestock.

There are as yet no statistics concerning the livestock of this country. Cattle farming is carried out in a small way in the

Northern Province. A large proportion of the cattle (of which something like 5,000-6,000 are slaughtered annually in the Colony and Protectorate) is imported from French Guinea. Sheep and goats are bred on a moderate scale throughout the country and pigs to a small extent. The value of the export in hides amounted to £1,046 in 1938. Government has secured the services of a Livestock Officer to investigate the possibilities of improving the numbers of the various forms of stock in the Dependency.

General.

The production of food is entirely in the hands of individual agriculturists, the majority of whom are small farmers. Each farmer, with the assistance of family labour, produces food for his own consumption. In the more backward parts of the country the farmer grows a diversity of crops and is practically self sufficient for all food supplies, but where transport facilities are good there is a tendency to concentrate on the most profitable crops and obtain other food requirements by barter or with the money from sales. There is as yet no export of local food crops, although an export in rice is expected in the near future, and the production of more food than can be consumed locally is something new. The cultivation, or collection and preparation, of agricultural products for the export market is also in the hands of individual agriculturists, and the money realized by the sale of these commodities is largely utilized for the payment of taxes and the purchase of imported articles.

All products are sold in the open market. The more fortunately placed producers can sell direct to the commercial firms and get a fair price, but a large proportion are obliged to deal with small petty traders and thus receive a poor return for their labour. It is clear that there are distinct possibilities for organized co-operative marketing especially in connection with the important export crops.

An Ordinance to regulate the conduct of Co-operative Societies was introduced and read a first time at the November meeting of Legislative Council in 1938. It is expected that this Ordinance will pass through the final stages at the May meeting of Council in 1939. In anticipation of this three farmers' marketing societies have been started in the Scarcies area where rice is produced on an intensive scale. In 1938 the membership of these societies was 100 and paddy belonging to the societies was sent to the Government mill in Freetown for cleaning and disposal.

Production for food and export is entirely in the hands of the indigenous peoples. The Syrian community, numbering about 1,400, have in the past restricted their activities to trading, but are now showing an interest in the production of bananas for export, and in 1938 a Syrian planter started a banana plantation which already shows great promise.

Employment of agricultural labour under Europeans is restricted to about 300 men engaged annually on the experimental and demonstration stations of the Agricultural Department. The knowledge gained in this way by labourers who subsequently return to work in their villages is definitely beneficial. By this means planting material of new crops and improved indigenous varieties has been widely disseminated. In addition farmers have been taught how to choose sites for, and plant and maintain economic crops, chiefly cocoa, coffee and oil palm. A few farmers have also been helped to take up ploughing which is new to this country. It has been found that farmers directly assisted in this way afford a demonstration, and diffuse knowledge, which their neighbours are quick to adopt.

Forests.

Forestry in Sierra Leone, as elsewhere, performs a dual function: it attempts to protect all existing forest and tries, within the limits of its financial resources, to develop areas capable of development in the existing economic regime.

It is estimated, tentatively, that about 1,500 square miles of true forest remains in the country most of which is tropical rain forest, scattered remnants mostly of a much more extensive forest estate which must have existed in the not distant past. Local agricultural methods, which must have persisted for centuries, have undoubtedly destroyed large tracts of such forest, and settled peaceful conditions are hastening the processes of destruction. Nevertheless, given scientific forest management, it is considered that the area quoted above is sufficient to meet nearly all local timber requirements at the present rate of consumption, but there seems little likelihood in the near future of any available surplus which could bring about a revival of the export trade which flourished until roughly the middle of the nineteenth century. It is curious too that the usual West African export species appear to be largely absent from Sierra Leone. Sawyers will find it difficult to obtain their supplies from outside reserves and exploitation will have to be started in such reserves where it is economically possible.

In 1938 imports of timber according to Customs returns amounted to 1,066,380 super. ft. valued at £15,625. It is impossible to estimate the consumption of sawn timber obtained from outside reserves but in Kenema, in the Kambui Reserve, an exploitation scheme initiated in 1934 by the Forest Department produced during the year 179,066 super. ft. or slightly less than 20 per cent. by volume of the figure for imported timber. The direct result of this organization has been largely to replace in certain Government Departments, the use of imported by local timber. It is hoped that this work will be extended considerably in the near future.

Less spectacular, but at least equally important if more difficult to appraise, is the protective work done by the Forest Department. About 70 per cent. by area of existing forest reserves in the country may be classed as protection forests. The aims of such reservation are to protect hill slopes from destructive and, in the end, unprofitable agriculture: to prevent erosion: to maintain, so far as is possible, existing climatic conditions: to protect important watersheds and the gathering grounds of the principal streams. There is no reason whatever why reserves primarily protective in function should not be developed economically as well. By careful management this can easily be contrived but limiting factors are ease of communications by road, rail or water and the accessibility of possible markets. Here the habits and relative wealth of the people play an important part. In many parts of the Protectorate mud and wattle houses with thatched roofs are still the rule. There would appear to be little immediate likelihood of such people changing their building methods even if supplies of cheap sawn timber were available.

The area of reserved forest in Colony and Protectorate has now reached at 766 square miles the most inadequate figure of approximately 2.75 per cent. of the total area of country. Plans are being laid which aim at bringing this figure nearer to what experts consider to be the desirable safe minimum for tropical countries which is variously estimated at from 20 to 30 per cent. Reserves in the Colony are on Crown Lands which are therefore available for purposes of Government but in the Protectorate only timber rights over reserved areas are alienated. The land there still belongs to the communal owners and this is recognized by the grant to them of a royalty on all forest produce extracted from the reserves. Farming rights in reserves are respected and the Settlement Courts make allowance for such rights when reserve agreements are negotiated.

Improvement fellings which are silvicultural in aim as well as for utilization, are being carried out in the Kambui Reserve. In certain other reserves regeneration by the taungya method is now being undertaken as extensively as organization of the necessary nursery stocks can be arranged.

VII.—COMMERCE.

An attractive price in the European market for each of the various articles of domestic produce is the chief incentive to an export trade of any importance. The principal articles of produce are palm kernels, palm oil, ginger, piassava and peppers, the leading purchasing countries in 1938 being the United Kingdom, Germany, France, the Netherlands and the United States of America. Palm kernels accounted for 19 per cent. of the total value of domestic exports in 1938.

The export of minerals (diamonds, raw gold, and iron ore) accounted for 73 per cent. of the total value of domestic exports in 1938. To this percentage diamonds contributed 36, gold 9 and iron ore 28.

Import trade is done with the United Kingdom, France, Belgium, the United States of America, Germany, the Netherlands, Czechoslovakia, Canada and South Africa, some of the principal articles being cotton piece-goods, beer, flour, salt, tobacco, coal, illuminating oil, motor spirit and provisions unenumerated.

Rice, the staple food of the African population, is produced in sufficient quantity to meet the demand; but a noteworthy trade is done in imported articles of foodstuff.

The following table shows the total value of imports, domestic exports and re-exports during the past five years:—

<i>Year.</i>			<i>Total Imports.</i>	<i>Domestic Exports.</i>	<i>Re-exports.</i>
			£	£	£
1934	...	...	805,227	832,809	179,066
1935	...	...	1,214,315	1,556,816	27,018
1936	...	...	1,346,715	2,224,918	152,047
1937	...	...	1,839,582	2,819,977	23,563
1938	...	...	1,500,342	2,344,195	44,734

THE PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL IMPORTS FROM EMPIRE AND FOREIGN COUNTRIES RESPECTIVELY DURING 1934 TO 1938 AND THE PRINCIPAL SUPPLYING COUNTRIES.

	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.
United Kingdom ...	58.38	70.17	70.00	69.79	68.76
British West African Possessions.	.77	2.87	.36	.55	.74
British Possessions (other).	18.03	11.02	13.91	14.60	16.38
France ...	1.45	1.08	.95	.68	.63
Germany ...	2.75	2.61	2.64	2.43	1.55
Netherlands ...	.55	.70	.71	.74	.43
United States of America.	8.59	6.11	4.96	4.15	5.82
Japan ...	3.57	.76	1.47	1.60	1.34
Foreign West African Possessions.	.12	.41	.30	.71	.97
Other European Countries.	4.66	3.38	3.46	4.04	2.52
Other Countries ...	1.13	.89	1.24	.71	.86
Totals ...	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

THE PERCENTAGE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO EMPIRE AND
FOREIGN COUNTRIES RESPECTIVELY DURING 1934 TO 1938
AND THE PRINCIPAL COUNTRIES OF DESTINATION.

	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.
United Kingdom ...	67·12	68·12	61·81	69·07	61·54
British West African Possessions.	3·11	3·08	7·40	2·16	1·06
British Possessions (other).	·35	·37	·40	·48	·28
France	·19	·10	·29	·41	·18
Germany	14·63	11·31	14·86	15·59	5·48
Netherlands	8·34	7·87	11·14	6·33	24·61
United States of America.	2·02	2·46	1·00	2·22	1·84
Japan	·07	—	—	—	—
Foreign West African Possessions.	·91	·58	·45	·65	·66
Other European Countries.	2·99	5·73	2·46	2·87	4·11
Other Countries ...	·27	·38	·19	·22	·24
Totals	<u>100·00</u>	<u>100·00</u>	<u>100·00</u>	<u>100·00</u>	<u>100·00</u>

STATEMENT OF THE VALUES AND/OR QUANTITIES OF PRINCIPAL IMPORTS DURING 1937 AND 1938 OTHER THAN BULLION
AND SPECIE, INDICATING THE PRINCIPAL SOURCES OF SUPPLY.

<i>Article.</i>	1937.		1938.		<i>Principal Sources of Supply.</i>
	<i>Quantity.</i>	<i>Value.</i>	<i>Quantity.</i>	<i>Value.</i>	
Beer and ale, stout and porter	Imp. gall.				United Kingdom, Eire, Germany.
Biscuits, bread and cakes :—					
Cabin or ships' ...	cwt.				United Kingdom.
Fish of all kinds ...	"				Canada, Portugal, United States of America, Japan.
Rice ...	"				Burma, Portuguese Guinea.
Flour ...	"				Canada.
Salt (common) ...	"				United Kingdom.
Spirits (potable) ...	Imp. gall.				United Kingdom, France, Jamaica.
Sugar ...	cwt.				United Kingdom, Czechoslovakia.
Tobacco, unmanufactured ...	lb.				Canada, Nyasaland, Union of South Africa, United States of America.
Tobacco ...	"				United Kingdom.
Cigarettes ...	hundreds				Union of South Africa, Spain, Cyprus, France, Germany.
Wines, still ...	Imp. gall.				United Kingdom.
Coal ...	ton				United States of America, Canada, Norway, United Kingdom.
Lumber ...	Superficial feet.				
Apparel :—					
Boots and shoes, all kinds	pair				United Kingdom, British India, Hong Kong.
Hats, caps, bonnets, etc....	doz.				United Kingdom, Japan, Hong Kong.
Singlets ...	No.				Hong Kong, United Kingdom.
Bags and sacks (empty) ...	"				British India.
Cotton piece-goods ...	Sq. yd. cwt.				United Kingdom, British India.

<i>Article.</i>	1937.		1938.		<i>Principal Sources of Supply.</i>
	<i>Quantity.</i>	<i>Value.</i>	<i>Quantity.</i>	<i>Value.</i>	
Woollen and worsted manu- factures (all kinds). value	—	£ 13,859	—	£ 8,243	United Kingdom.
Electrical and telegraphic apparatus (all kinds). "	—	8,268	—	10,027	United Kingdom, United States of America.
Implements and tools "	—	17,094	—	6,700	United Kingdom.
Machinery, electrical "	—	17,256	—	42,449	"
" industrial "	—	13,538	—	1,872	"
" mining ... "	—	38,315	—	64,341	" Kingdom, United States of America.
Metals :—					
Buckets, pails and basins doz.	44,273	16,506	5,573	1,698	United Kingdom, Japan.
Corrugated iron sheets ... ton	621	13,055	187	4,017	United Kingdom.
Other kinds ... value	—	56,199	—	25,572	United Kingdom, Germany.
Vehicles—Road :—					
Chassis with engines ... No.	70	10,471	25	4,356	United Kingdom.
Private cars (including cabs). "	99	14,601	103	14,886	United Kingdom, Canada.
Beads ... lb.	95,860	13,342	14,543	2,235	Czechoslovakia, Germany.
Cement ... ton	4,777	13,730	5,050	15,290	United Kingdom.
Medicines and drugs... value	—	18,463	—	13,195	United Kingdom, United States of America, Germany.
Oil—illuminating ... Imp. gall.	491,344	22,794	460,778	21,042	United States of America, United Kingdom.
" fuel ... "	314,550	9,368	466,191	10,624	United Kingdom, United States of America.
" Motor spirit ... "	461,554	22,353	423,466	19,620	United States of America, Trinidad.
Perfumery ... value	—	14,286	—	5,402	United Kingdom.

THE VALUES AND/OR QUANTITIES OF PRINCIPAL DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS, OTHER THAN BULLION AND SPECIE DURING 1937 AND 1938.

	1937.		1938.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
Benniseed ton	104	£ 1,662	374	£ 3,700
Cocoa, raw „	265	8,830	384	5,849
Diamonds value	—	1,070,384	—	858,055
Ginger lb.	5,340,944	97,622	6,059,200	60,680
Gold oz. (troy)	40,828	269,465	31,505	207,940
Hides (cattle) tanned lb.	27,920	2,029	4,880	316
„ untanned cwt.	1,032	2,825	278	730
Kola nuts cental of 100 lb.	50,347	60,504	32,470	29,785
Palm kernels ton	76,776	884,812	63,697	457,031
Palm oil „	2,325	42,238	1,066	16,025
Peppers... .. lb.	45,455	1,093	201,897	3,410
Piassava ton	3,392	43,609	3,791	40,369
Platinum oz. (troy)	227	2,361	135	1,004
Rice cwt.	140	88	7,109	2,927
Iron ore value	—	325,605	—	646,421
Re-exports (less specie and currency notes) :—				
Wood and timber unmanufactured, other kinds.	—	1,164	—	—
Metals—iron and steel manufactures, other kinds.	—	3,895	—	2,078
Vehicles—Ships and boats mechanically propelled.	—	1,500	—	1,000
„ road, commercial vehicles, etc.	—	1,430	—	—
„ road, private cars	—	2,729	—	2,987
„ air, aeroplane parts	—	1,550	—	183
Goods unenumerated manufactured ...	—	1,371	—	620
Machinery—marine	—	312	—	422
Electrical and telegraphic apparatus :—				
Wireless apparatus :—				
Complete sets	—	470	—	385
Other re-exports	—	8,962	—	14,029

Palm Kernels: The Home market price gradually decreased from £11 in January to £8 14s. 6d. in December and averaged throughout the year £9 8s. 3d. as compared with £13 10s. in 1937.

Shipments to the United Kingdom decreased from 29,962 to 24,146 tons. Exports to Germany fell from 33,213 to 14,849 tons, whilst those to the Netherlands and Denmark increased from 10,120 to 21,416 tons and from 1,223 to 1,533 tons respectively.

BRIEF STATISTICS OF IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF COIN AND NOTES DURING 1934 TO 1938.

IMPORTS.

			1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.
			£	£	£	£.	£
Specie and Currency Notes :—			-				
Alloy...	...	...	12,144	82,250	40,075	124,001	68,697
Nickel	...	...	1,102	1,573	1,405	2,154	2,314
Silver	...	...	184	3	5,500	—	50
Currency notes	...	...	15,406	3,849	1,276	21,397	62,185

EXPORTS.

Specie and Currency Notes :—							
Alloy...	...	...	152,480	200	25,720	180	20,000
Nickel	...	...	240	—	—	—	630
Silver	...	...	8,394	11,545	6,800	—	2,400
Currency notes	...	...	2,580	1,230	100,500	—	—

Imports.

The total value of imports into the Colony during the year amounted to £1,500,342 as compared with £1,839,582 in 1937, being a decrease of £339,240.

The following table shows the value of imports by classes during the years 1937 and 1938:—

	1937.	1938.	Decrease.
	£	£	£
Class I.—Food, drink and tobacco	366,195	265,127	101,068
Class II.—Raw materials, etc.	147,171	142,087	5,084
Class III.—Articles mainly manufactured	1,139,428	926,103	213,325
Class IV.—Animals not for food, etc.	39,136	33,721	5,415
Class V.—Bullion, specie, etc....	147,652	133,304	14,348
Totals	£1,839,582	£1,500,342	£339,240

Total decrease ... £339,240.

Compared with 1937 there were decreases in the value of each of the three categories which constitute Class I—"Food" by £70,388, "Drink" by £9,310 and "Tobacco" (mainly unmanufactured) by £21,370.

Commercial coal and lumber were mainly responsible for the decrease in Class II, the value being £5,084 less than the 1937 imports.

The majority of items under Class III recorded a decrease, particularly cotton piece goods £138,324, and iron and steel manufactures, other kinds, not elsewhere specified £30,172. Appreciable increases were however recorded in fuel oil £74,540, machinery, mining and gold dredging, £26,026, and machinery, electrical, £21,251.

The following table shows the commercial imports for home consumption of cotton piecegoods, including velveteen, for the years 1934 to 1938:—

<i>Year.</i>				<i>Quantity.</i> <i>Sq. yds.</i>	<i>Value.</i> £	<i>Duty</i> <i>obtained.</i> £
1934	...	...	...	5,638,488	107,740	26,524
1935	...	...	...	14,207,762	297,455	72,593
1936	...	...	...	14,408,232	328,107	76,320
1937	...	...	...	12,883,821	311,457	65,067
1938	...	...	...	7,233,105	173,322	39,201

The following table shows the value and percentage of the imports from the different countries during the years 1937 and 1938:—

				<i>Value.</i> <i>1937.</i> £	<i>Percentage.</i> <i>1937.</i>	<i>Value.</i> <i>1938.</i> £	<i>Percentage.</i> <i>1938.</i>
United Kingdom	...	...	...	1,283,815	69.79	1,031,705	68.76
British West African Possessions.				10,137	0.55	11,110	0.74
British Possessions (other)	...			268,631	14.60	245,705	16.38
France	...	...	...	12,417	0.68	9,475	0.63
Germany	...	...	...	44,734	2.43	23,214	1.55
Netherlands	...	...	...	13,551	0.74	6,444	0.43
United States of America	...			76,273	4.15	87,360	5.82
Japan	...	...	...	29,439	1.60	20,084	1.34
Foreign West African Possessions.				13,085	0.71	14,587	0.97
Other European Countries	...			74,367	4.04	37,710	2.52
Other Countries	...	...		13,133	0.71	12,948	0.86
Totals	...	...	...	£1,839,582	100.00	£1,500,342	100.00

Exports.

The total value of exports from the Colony during the year amounted to £2,388,929 (domestic exports being £2,344,195 and non-domestic £44,734).

The following table shows the value of exports by classes during the years 1937 and 1938:—

		<i>1937.</i> £	<i>1938.</i> £	<i>Increase.</i> £	<i>Decrease.</i> £
Class I—					
Food, Drink and Tobacco	...	171,057	104,275	—	66,782
Class II—					
Raw Materials and Articles mainly unmanufactured.		2,379,605	2,030,932	—	348,673
Class III—					
Articles wholly or mainly manufactured.		19,590	17,931	—	1,659
Class IV—					
Animals not for food	...	3,643	4,821	1,178	—
Class V—					
Bullion, Specie and Currency Notes.		269,645	230,970	—	38,675
Totals	...	£2,843,540	£2,388,929	£1,178	£455,789

Net decrease £454,611

The following table shows the value and percentage of the exports to the different countries during the years 1937 and 1938:—

<i>Country.</i>	<i>Value.</i>	<i>Percentage.</i>	<i>Value.</i>	<i>Percentage.</i>
	1937.	1937.	1938.	1938.
	£		£	
United Kingdom	1,964,006	69·07	1,470,378	61·54
British West African Possessions	61,340	2·16	25,434	1·06
British Possessions (other) ...	13,563	0·48	6,624	0·28
France	11,728	0·41	4,396	0·18
Germany	443,346	15·59	131,062	5·48
Netherlands	180,092	6·33	587,839	24·61
United States of America ...	63,189	2·22	43,965	1·84
Japan	—	—	—	—
Foreign West African Possessions.	18,448	0·65	15,776	0·66
Other European Countries ...	81,520	2·87	97,724	4·11
Other Countries	6,308	0·22	5,731	0·24
Totals	£2,843,540	100·00	£2,388,929	100·00

The following table shows the quantity and value of palm kernels exported during the last five years:—

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Quantity.</i>	<i>Value.</i>
	<i>Tons.</i>	£
1934	68,655	360,780
1935	78,019	583,645
1936	84,578	810,238
1937	76,776	884,812
1938	63,697	457,031

State of Trade.

The following comparative table summarizes the state of trade in the Colony during the past five years:—

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Total Imports (less specie and currency notes).</i>	<i>Re-exports (less specie and currency notes).</i>	<i>Net Imports.</i>	<i>Domestic Exports.</i>	<i>Excess of net Imports over Domestic Exports.</i>	<i>Excess of Domestic Exports over net Imports.</i>	<i>Customs Duty on Imports and Exports.</i>	<i>Tonnage of Shipping entered and cleared.</i>
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	
1934	776,334	15,376	760,958	832,805	—	71,847	313,528	4,269,310
1935	1,126,556	14,043	1,112,513	1,556,816	—	444,303	441,966	4,794,868
1936	1,298,390	19,027	1,279,363	2,224,918	—	945,555	491,694	4,979,189
1937	1,691,930	23,383	1,668,547	2,550,512	—	881,965	531,556	5,473,202
1938	1,367,038	21,704	1,345,334	2,136,255	—	790,921	403,944	5,435,123

TOURIST TRAFFIC.

On the 28th February, 1928, the first cruise ship, s.s. *Laconia*, arrived in Sierra Leone carrying 331 tourists. In 1938 six vessels visited Freetown and approximately 1,626 tourists came ashore.

This season ranges from December to April.

The amount spent in the Colony by tourists is not prodigious. The Railway Department collected £344 in 1938 on excursions to Waterloo, a village 21 miles distant from Freetown and it is estimated that local motor transport services benefitted to the extent of £200.

Cars are available for drives to Hill Station, a residential quarter six miles from Freetown, 850 feet above sea level, and to Lumley Beach, seven miles distant, where good sea bathing is available. When the Colony circular road is completed a drive of 16 miles from Freetown along the coast through picturesque scenery will be possible. Other points of interest where excellent views can be obtained are Mount Aureol and Regent village.

VIII.—LABOUR.

Mineral Industry.

An average number of 13,534 Africans was employed in mining and prospecting throughout the year and additional numbers were engaged in such accessory services as police work, building and construction, etc.

In general the labour supply was adequate. No recruiting methods were necessary there being normally sufficient men applying for work on the spot. There were the usual seasonal contractions in labour supply during the planting and harvesting periods.

In the gold and platinum industries the introduction of tributing has been very popular with the native who in the majority of cases prefers this to daily wage work, and more than half the labour was so engaged.

Other unskilled labour was employed on a daily wage basis, and the rate of pay was either fixed or made dependent on the completion of a task.

One company augments the wage with a free daily issue of rice, while other companies by accumulating stocks of rice ensure that it is available at a reasonable price to the labourer throughout the year.

Agricultural Labour.

The 1931 census estimated the total population at 1,768,480. The number of non-Africans is negligible. Adult able-bodied males number about 450,000 and of these about 95 per cent.,

with the assistance from other members of their families, are engaged in agriculture as a whole or part-time occupation. There are no agricultural estates or plantations and the labour on farms is of the nature described, assisted to a small extent by domestics and casual labourers who do not receive any cash payment but are usually given lodging, some produce, and often the use of farm land.

At present the supply of labour for agricultural pursuits is adequate. Recent mining activities have withdrawn some 14,000 labourers, and their dependants, from farming, and this has created a demand for 4,000 to 5,000 tons of rice, in addition to other foodstuffs. In 1937 this demand was met by importing rice, but in 1938 the rice crop was so large that there was enough to supply this market and still leave a small surplus for export.

Forestry Labour.

The Forest Department is not a large employer of labour. At Kenema average figures for 1938 were:—

	<i>Average monthly numbers.</i>	
Sawyers (skilled and semi-skilled).	50	Usually work in groups of three which earn on an average £3 per month: this divided, £1 10s. or roughly 1s. 3d. per day to the headman: the other £1 10s. is divided between the other two men probably in the proportion 9d. and 6d. per day. Good gangs can earn up to as much as double the above amount.
Labourers	45	Paid at standard Protectorate rate of 8d. per day. Except that manual transport work now done at suitable piece-work rates by which labourers can earn more but most of the labour so employed is casual.

To obtain supplies of labour at Kenema has proved increasingly difficult and the monthly average has fluctuated between 26 and 79. Work is arduous, sometimes dangerous and during the heavy rains not a little irksome. It is not surprising therefore that labourers tend to go elsewhere in search of more congenial work. Chiefly because of shortage of labour, but for other reasons as well, the Department has been compelled to consider seriously the question of mechanization of all the processes of exploitation. A power-driven saw-mill, fed by mechanized transport, would relieve local labour of much of the drudgery of present work at Kenema. It is to be hoped that conditions will then prove more attractive.

Major W. F. Chipp, D.S.O., M.C., Forest Engineer, Federated Malay States, visited Sierra Leone in 1938 and advised against the extension of mechanised methods of exploitation to Kenema. A search for a suitable area elsewhere is being undertaken, so far without success.

Plantation work at Tabe and elsewhere gave employment to a monthly average of 51 labourers but here the variation was between 19 and 190. Such work is essentially seasonal in its incidence and sometimes labourers were only employed for a few days in one month of the year. With the exception of two senior nurserymen at 1s. 9d. per day and nine junior nurserymen at 1s. 6d., labour was usually paid at the basic Protectorate rate of 8d. per day.

Supervision of Labour Conditions in the Protectorate.

In the Northern and Southern Provinces no Labour Department or inspectorate is established but the work of supervision of Labour Conditions has been carried out by the Medical and Mines Departments and by the District Commissioner concerned. Certain areas in which mining activities are existent and where a large number of labourers are housed have been declared Labour Health Areas under the Employers and Employed Ordinance No. 30 of 1934. The mining areas contain virtually all the organised industrial labour to be found in the Protectorate, and employees in such work numbered about 12,000 in 1938. These areas are inspected at frequent intervals by officers of the Medical Department, who report anything outside their province to the District Commissioner who endeavours to ensure that the recommendations made are carried into effect. The Mines Department are more concerned with the pay and general working conditions of the labourers.

District Commissioners themselves make frequent visits to the mines areas in order to ascertain that the conditions regarding housing and sanitation are in accordance with the special Regulations laid down by the Employers and Employed Ordinance of 1934. Half-yearly reports are submitted on 30th June and 30th December to Government, giving information on these subjects. Those already received reveal that satisfactory progress has been made and a good standard has been maintained. The large companies possess their own hospitals and engage the services of a qualified Medical Officer, and a Sanitary Inspector. A qualified African dispenser is usually attached to the camps of private employers where labour is not employed on a large scale. Full use is made of available Government hospital and dispensary facilities.

Local legislation in so far as it affects this subject will be found in Chapter XIV.

IX.—WAGES AND COST OF LIVING.

Wages.

Artisans (Public Works).—In Freetown during 1938 Public Works artisans were paid from 2s. to 6s. a day for journeymen and from 1s. to 2s. 6d. for improvers. In a few exceptional cases certain journeymen were paid at the rate of 8s. 8d. a day.

In the Protectorate rates of pay varied from 8d. to 1s. for improvers and 1s. to 5s. for journeymen.

Labourers (Public Works).—In Freetown the rate of pay of ordinary unskilled labour was from 1s. to 1s. 6d. a day. In certain cases semi-skilled labour employed on special work in which they had acquired some proficiency were paid slightly higher rates, the maximum being 2s.

In the Protectorate the rates of pay for labourers varied from 8d. to 1s., while the rate of pay for headmen or gangers varied from 10d. to 2s. 6d. per diem.

Artisans (Railway Department).—In Freetown during 1938 Railway artisans were paid from 2s. 6d. to 7s. 9d. a day for journeymen and from 1s. to 2s. per day for apprentices.

Labourers (Railway Department).—In Freetown the rate of pay of unskilled labour was from 1s. to 1s. 3d. per day. In certain cases unskilled labour employed on special work in which they had acquired some proficiency were paid slightly higher rates, the maximum being 1s. 9d.

In the Protectorate the rate of pay of labourers varied from 8d. to 1s. per day, while that of Gangers was from 1s. 6d. to 2s. 9d. per day, and skilled labourers from 1s. 3d. to 1s. 6d. per day.

The wages of artisans outside Government employ are practically the same as those paid by the Government departments.

Cost of Living.

Rice, the only staple food, was obtainable at from 4s. 6d. to 6s. a bushel.

X.—EDUCATION AND WELFARE INSTITUTIONS.

Education.

Education is now governed by a revised Ordinance passed in 1938, but the Schedule of Rules for the Colony (1929) and the Protectorate (1930) have not yet been revised and are still in force.

In the Colony the Protestant infant and primary schools are conducted by school committees as the result of the amalgamation of denominational schools. Of these there are 35. There are also two Government, four Roman Catholic and three Mohammedan schools. The managers of these schools, i.e., the owners of the school buildings or their representatives, are

theoretically responsible for the upkeep of the buildings, but Government pays the salaries of teachers and provides equipment. All school fees are paid into Government revenue. There are at present 44 schools of this type in the Colony, with 7,241 pupils on their rolls and an average attendance of 5,520.

There is one Government secondary school for boys in the Colony and three assisted schools, which receive capitation and equipment grants; grants are also paid to qualified teachers. There are four assisted girls' secondary schools. In these schools there are on the rolls:—

Boys.—65 primary, 213 preparatory and 258 secondary pupils.

Girls.—375 primary, 94 preparatory and 168 secondary pupils.

There are also two assisted schools in the Colony which provide vocational training—The Sir Alfred Jones Trades School (wood-working) for boys, and the A.M.E. Girls' Industrial School (Domestic Science). Courses in carpentry and printing form part of the curriculum at the Albert Academy, one of the assisted boys' secondary schools.

Apart from assisted schools there are an unassisted boys' secondary school, a preparatory girls' school, and a number of unassisted primary schools.

Domestic science forms an important part of the curriculum in the education of girls. Special examinations are held annually by independent examiners and certificates and diplomas awarded to successful students. Training for nurses is given both at the Connaught (Government) Hospital and the Princess Christian (Mission) Hospital.

There is a scheme whereby a number of scholarships are awarded to enable boys and girls from primary schools to attend approved secondary schools.

Higher education in Arts and Theology is provided at the Fourah Bay College, a missionary institution affiliated to Durham University, and in scientific subjects by scholarships to the Higher College, Yaba, Nigeria.

Government finances schemes for the training of male teachers in connection with Fourah Bay College and for the training of female teachers at the Women Teachers' Training College, Wilberforce.

An Agricultural Institute at Mabang, managed by the Trustees of the S.B. Thomas Bequest, provides training in agriculture for a limited number of youths from the Colony.

In the Protectorate there are three Government schools; there are also 97 assisted mission schools, which are eligible for capitation, building and equipment grants; teachers'

salaries being paid by the missions and supplemented in the case of qualified teachers only by grants from Government. These schools are attended by 8,242 pupils, consisting of 6,267 boys and 1,975 girls.

There is no school in the Protectorate covering the complete secondary course, but the Bo Government School and two or three mission schools have classes of secondary grade.

The Union College at Bunumbu trains teachers and evangelists for the Protestant Missions.

There is also an assisted (Catholic) Industrial School at Mobe, which gives instruction in the trades of boat-building and wood and metal working.

In Freetown a special music master teaches singing on correct lines, and very good results have been achieved. An annual singing competition is held, at which the greatest keenness is displayed.

Instruction in physical training is supervised by an officer specifically appointed for the purpose. His activities at present are limited to the schools and training colleges in Freetown and the vicinity.

Welfare Institutions.

The methods of caring for the poor and sick and the burial of deceased destitute persons remained the same during 1937 as in the previous year. Friendly Societies abound.

During 1937 a site was chosen at Kissy for the erection of a building to be known as the King George VI Memorial Hostel for the housing of diseased paupers. At the close of the year construction was nearing completion.

Mental Home.

There is a mental home at Kissy, about five miles from Freetown.

XI.—COMMUNICATION AND TRANSPORT

Roads.

Communication throughout the Colony has been greatly facilitated during the past year as the result of the construction of the new Peninsula Circular Road and the commencement of the link road from Waterloo to Port Loko via Songo. Both roads are expected to be completed during 1939. The former will entirely circle the Peninsula giving easy access to the coastal towns and villages which at present can be reached only on foot or by sea, and the latter road will link up Freetown to the Protectorate road system. A new road 18 miles in length has been constructed between Mano and the Bumpe—Mattru Road.

Freetown itself is well provided with roads 35 miles of which are suitable for motor traffic. The more important of these, totalling 20 miles, are bitumen surfaced and generally provided with concrete side drains. Pedestrian side walks are now making their appearance and some of the wider roads are being bordered with flowering trees.

Outside the City Boundary there are in the Colony some 66 miles of motorable road inclusive of road construction during 1938. Of this mileage 15 have been bitumen surfaced.

Two notable innovations were made during 1938 in road construction, the first being the adoption of a new road formation giving better drainage and consequent reduction in maintenance costs whilst at the same time providing a safer carriage-way for vehicles.

The other innovation was the introduction of piecework on actual road construction. Viewed at first with some suspicion by the labourers it came into immediate favour with them after they had been persuaded to give it a fair trial. The men found that the tasks were fairly assessed and that by attention to their work and co-operation within their working gangs they could increase their former earnings. The wages of the labourers are safeguarded by the Engineer-in-Charge who pays each man individually.

Since the application of this system the speed of road construction has shown a marked increase and no labour trouble whatever has been experienced with the workers.

Railway.

The total length of open line at the end of 1937 was 311 miles, with a gauge of 2 ft. 6 ins.

Capital expenditure on the railway to the 31st December, 1938, was £1,105,742.

The total revenue of this Department was £177,230, which shows a decrease of £30,446 on the figure for the previous year. The revenue includes £966 from contributions to the Widows' and Orphans' Pensions Fund.

The expenditure other than capital for the year was £205,323, which shows an increase of £6,562 as compared with 1937. This total includes £51,760 for loan charges. Working expenditure amounted to £153,562 and gross receipts £177,230.

	1913.	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Receipts per train mile	9 6.11	10 10.71	8 5.39	8 10.93	8 7.88	8 11.03	9 7.69	10 3.16	10 8.65	9 6.41
Working expenses per train mile ...	*5 1.09	11 4.17	8 9.48	8 3.86	8 1.98	7 8.82	6 10.82	6 7.90	7 3.39	8 3.13
Passengers carried ...	438,388	258,834	252,472	408,149	373,161	377,123	449,513	540,990	633,499	663,168
Tonnage carried ...	62,084	70,949	61,859	66,024	58,866	59,938	71,628	76,887	76,298	67,998

* Exclusive of pensions, gratuities, etc.

The rolling stock in use during the year consisted of 39 locomotives, 70 coaching vehicles and 304 goods vehicles.

Motor Bus Service.

The motor bus service is under the direction of the General Manager of the Railway. This service runs on two routes, viz., route 1 to Hill Station European Settlement through Wilberforce, a distance of six miles, and route 2 to Kuma 14 miles from Freetown, on the western sea-board of the peninsula of Sierra Leone. The fleet in 1938 consisted of six passenger vehicles and two lorries.

The total number of passengers carried was 303,832 and the gross receipts amounted to £3,686.

The staff employed was:—

Europeans ...	...	...	...	2
Africans ...	...	...	...	20
				—
Total ...	...	...	...	22

Postal Business.

There was some decrease in postal business during 1938. Postal business was conducted from 17 post offices and 50 postal agencies, Money Order business from 24, and Postal Order business from 53 offices.

The total revenue collected was £30,567 as against £33,014 in the previous year. Of this amount £23,958 was derived from direct postal revenue, and £6,609 from Customs duty on parcels.

As regards correspondence, the estimated number of articles of all kinds, including 94,727 registered articles, dealt with during the year was 2,486,700 as compared with 2,271,900 in 1937. Money Order transactions decreased slightly from 4,348 (value £25,020) in 1937 to 3,780 (value £21,536) in 1938.

The total number of Postal Orders issued during the year was 60,452 valued at £38,098 and the number of Postal Orders paid was 45,744 valued at £28,433 as compared with the previous year, viz., Orders issued 64,308 valued at £40,576; Orders paid 52,386 valued at £33,447.

The Parcel Post transactions showed a slight decrease, 38,636 parcels being handled as against 39,093 the previous year.

In the Cash on Delivery Service (with Great Britain only), 9,802 parcels were received (value £17,828) as compared with 12,190 (value £22,102) in 1937.

Telegraph System.

The internal telegraph system is maintained by the railway. The main system runs from Freetown to Pendembu and Bauya to Kamabai with various subsidiary country lines throughout the Protectorate—totalling 789 $\frac{3}{4}$ miles.

Telephones.

The Freetown, Hill Station and Cline Town telephone services comprise $392\frac{3}{4}$ miles with a traffic control telephone line, Water Street to Pendembu (up country) of 455 miles making a total of $848\frac{3}{4}$ miles.

Broadcast Relay Service.

The Broadcast Service was inaugurated in May, 1934, and is owned and controlled by Government.

It is a relay service which operates on the rediffusion principle. The equipment, consisting of rectifying apparatus, two short-wave battery operated receivers and six power amplifiers, together with studio and gramophone equipment, is of the latest design. The power amplifiers are capable of giving a combined undistorted output of 300 watts.

Directional reflector aerials are used and are erected 500 ft. above sea level.

The station relays as a standard programme the whole of Transmissions II and IV in the Empire programme from Daventry on wavelengths of 13, 16, 19, 25 and 31 metres. All transmissions from Daventry are receivable at good signal strength in normal circumstances.

The number of subscribers up to date is over 750.

Cables and Wireless.

Cable and Wireless, Limited, maintain a cable office and a low-power wireless station in Freetown; the latter is used mainly for communicating with shipping.

Increase in the knowledge of wireless telegraphy and recent improvement in the manufacture of wireless installations of moderate cost have led to considerable numbers of applications on the part of private individuals for licences under the Wireless Telegraphy Ordinance, 1924, and the holders of such licences have little difficulty in picking up any station in Europe and American broadcasting on suitable short-wavelengths.

Shipping.

There was a decrease of nine (9) in the number of steam and motor vessels entering in the Colony during the year and in tonnage 27,429. Of a total of 2,712,979 tons entered, 60.02 per cent. was British, 7.34 German, 4.32 Italian, 5.96 French, 5.09 American and 9.24 Netherlands.

The following shipping lines call regularly at Freetown on their way to or from other West African ports:—

<i>Line.</i>	<i>Destination.</i>	<i>Passenger or Cargo.</i>	<i>Frequency of Calls.</i>	<i>Mail contract.</i>	<i>Other feature of the contract, and other remarks.</i>
Elder Dempster Lines, Limited, Liverpool.	Liverpool ...	Passenger	26 (1 each 2 weeks) plus supplementary end of summer.	Liverpool and West African Colonies	Colony pays a proportion of the subsidy for the conveyance of mails between Liverpool and West African Colonies.
"	" ...	Cargo	26 (1 each 2 weeks).		Cargo vessels also have passenger accommodation usually for 12.
"	London ...	"	13 (one each 4 weeks).		
"	Continent ...	"	18 (1 each 3 weeks).		Extra services to United Kingdom, Continent and United States of America put in as inducement offered.
"	New York ...	"	13 (one each 4 weeks).		Passenger services also accepted cargo at this port.
"	Canada—South Africa.	"	12 (1 monthly)		
"	Coast Ports ...	Passenger	26 (1 each 2 weeks).		
"	"	Cargo	52 (1 each week)		
"	Hull, London, Continent	"	1 every 4 weeks.		
United Africa Company Steamers	Liverpool and West African ports.	2nd Class cargo boats	Twice monthly.		Limited passenger accommodation.
Navigazione Libera Triestina (Italian Line).	Genoa, W. & S. Africa	2nd Class cargo boats.	Once a month.		
Sierra Leone Development Co....	United Kingdom	Iron Ore	About once every 3 weeks.		
American West African Line, Inc., New York.	New York ...	Cargo	18 round voyages calling outward and Homeward 12 months.		

American West African Line, Inc., New York— <i>cont.</i>	U.S. Gulf ports ...	Cargo	5 round voy- ages calling outward and Homeward 12 months.	
Holland West-Afrika Lijn, Am- sterdam	Le Havre, Am- sterdam and Hamburg.	Passenger	2 monthly (outward). 2 monthly (Homeward).	Mail contract with Netherlands Government.
"	Rotterdam, Am- sterdam and Hamburg.	Cargo	1 monthly (outward). 1 monthly (Homeward).	
"	Coast ports up to Spanish Guinea.	Cargo	1 monthly (outward). 1 monthly (Homeward).	
Woermann Linie	Southampton, Boulogne s/mer, Hamburg and Continental ports.	Passenger	2 monthly.	Mail contract with Spanish Government.
"	Hamburg and Con- tinental ports.	Cargo	1 monthly.	"
"	Coast ports ...	Passenger	1 monthly.	"
"	Coast ports ...	Cargo	1 monthly.	"
"	Marseilles ...	Passenger and cargo.	2 monthly (1 Homeward and 1 out- ward).	Mail contract with the Sierra Leone Government.
Cie. Generale de Navigation a vapeur (Cie. Fabre), and Cie. Marseilles de Navigation a Vapeur (Cie. Fraissinet) com- bined services.	Marseilles ...	Passenger and cargo.	1 every 3 weeks (average).	
"	Coast ports ...	Cargo (com- bined ser- vices).	1 monthly (average).	
Societe Navale de l'ouest Char- geurs Reunis.				

The lower reaches of all the rivers of Sierra Leone are navigable for boats and canoes and a considerable traffic is carried on by these means. The most commonly used craft are open sailing boats with a carrying capacity of about four tons and motor launches with a capacity of about ten tons.

There are four ports of entry in the Colony, viz., Freetown, Bonthe, Sulima and Mano Salija.

XII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

Canalization of Streams.—Sanders Brook and Samba Water have already been canalized and the work remaining under the approved eight years' programme, due for completion at the end of 1941, consists of street drainage only. During 1938 the following streets were drained with precast ovoid concrete channels:—

Upper Brook Street.

Waterloo Street—Lower Section.

Wellington Street—Lower Section.

Upper Waterloo Street.

Lewis Street.

East side of Campbell Street from Pademba Road to West Street.

Peninsula Circular Road.—Approximately four miles of this road were completed in 1937. In January of 1938 it was found that the original estimate of £21,530 was insufficient owing to an increase in labourers' wages, the meeting of much more difficult working conditions than was anticipated and a great increase in the amount of bridging. A new estimate totalling £45,000 was submitted to Government in March and authority was received to continue the work.

The subsequent introduction of a new road formation giving better drainage and an improved carriageway, the simplification of bridge designs and the adoption of piece work for labour enabled economies to be effected and, after careful investigation of results, it was found possible to report to Government in October that the revised estimate of £45,000 could be safely reduced to £41,000—a saving of £120 per mile of construction due to the new system of working. Approximately 27 miles of this road had been completed by the end of 1938.

Waterloo—Port Loko Road.—Construction of this road commenced from both ends in October, 1938, the labour being employed on piece work from the start, good progress was made and some ten miles of carriageway were completed by the end of the year.

European Hospital, Hill Station.—Construction was commenced in 1937 and the main building was taken up to roof level in that year. During 1938 the building was completed, an isolation unit constructed and servants quarters erected. Some delay was occasioned by the non-arrival of the soil piping for the Septic Tank Sewage disposal but the whole unit was generally ready for occupation at the end of the year. This hospital is notable as being the first Government building in Sierra Leone to have a water borne sewage system installed.

New Maternity Hospital, Freetown.—The foundations of this building were completed in 1937. Good progress was made during 1938 and, at the end of the year, the main building was completed and the sanitary annexe well in hand. Decoration and internal fitting up is now proceeding.

Additional Buildings for Wilberforce Barracks.—Several additional buildings were constructed in the Barracks lines of the Sierra Leone Battalion, Royal West Africa Frontier Force at Wilberforce.

The buildings are of permanent construction in cement-sand bricks made on site, and all buildings are fitted with steel doors and windows to reduce future maintenance charges.

In addition the barracks site has been extensively terraced and the results of former surface erosion made good and further erosion prevented. Drainage and road making throughout the barracks is in hand.

Electric Light and Power.

An electric light and power scheme put into service in April, 1928, is in operation by Government in Freetown. High tension alternating current is generated by Diesel engines and distributed at British standard voltage and periodicity. Charges to consumers were revised during the year and a "Lighting and Domestic Tariff" to cover supplies of electric energy to private and business premises and a "Power Tariff" on a two-part basis for power consumers, which were in the main favourable to consumers, were introduced. The "Lighting and Domestic Tariff" operates with a favourable decreasing charge as consumption increases. The first 15 units of consumption are charged at 9d. per unit thereafter additional units are charged in varying stages at 8d., 7d., 6d., 5d., 4d., and 3d. per unit for each respective stage until a consumption of 94 units is reached for which £2 1s. 10d. is charged. For consumptions of more than 94 units 2d. per additional unit is charged. Under the two-part Power Tariff the following charges are made:—

- (i) 4s. per mensem per brake horse power installed;
- (ii) plus 1½d. per unit consumed.

A special agreement with the City Council is in force which covers the supply of electric energy and the maintenance of the

street lighting system of Freetown which is owned by the Government.

A minimum charge at a rate of 5s. per mensem is made in respect of each connection and is applicable to all consumers.

Further tariff reductions resulting from, and at the same time encouraging, more extensive use may prove possible in the near future.

The number of consumers steadily increased throughout the year and the distribution system covers a wide area. Building sites and power are available for industrial development.

XIII.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

Courts of Justice.

The West African Court of Appeal.—This Court has an appellate jurisdiction in both civil and criminal matters, in respect of certain decisions of the Supreme Court of the Colony, and of the Circuit Court of the Protectorate. The Judges of the Court are the Judges of the Supreme Courts of the Gold Coast, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and the Gambia Colony, and the Judges of the High Court of the Protectorate of Nigeria.

The Court sits periodically at Freetown for the hearing of appeals arising in Sierra Leone and the Gambia.

Courts of the Colony.—The following Courts have jurisdiction in the Colony:—

(i) *The Supreme Court (Ordinance No. 39 of 1932).*

(a) The Court consists of a Chief Justice and Puisne Judge, and also of the Chief Justice and every Judge of the Supreme Court of the Gold Coast Colony, the Chief Justice and every Judge of the Supreme Court of Nigeria, and the Judge of the Supreme Court of the Colony of the Gambia.

(b) In its ordinary jurisdiction the Court has all the powers of the High Court of Justice in England, except the Admiralty jurisdiction.

(c) The Court has also a summary jurisdiction in civil causes similar to that of the County Courts in England.

(d) The Court is also a Court of Appeal from any decision, civil or criminal of a Magistrate or District Commissioner.

(ii) *Magistrates' Courts (Cap. 118).*

There are certain Judicial Districts in each of which is established a Magistrate's Court for the summary trial of criminal causes and with power to commit persons for trial before the Supreme Court. These Courts have also jurisdiction in various quasi-criminal causes, which is conferred upon them by sundry Ordinances. Each Court is presided over by a Magistrate or District Commissioner or by two Justices of the Peace.

(iii) *Courts of Requests* (Cap. 43).

These are courts for the trial of civil causes in which the amount involved does not exceed a sum fixed by the Ordinance. There is one Court for each Judicial District. Each Court is presided over by a Magistrate or District Commissioner who in this capacity is styled "Judge of the Court of Requests," or by two Commissioners.

Courts of the Protectorate.—The Courts of Law of the Protectorate are as follows:—

(i) *The Circuit Court* (Ordinance No. 40 of 1932).

(a) This Court is constituted by the Chief Justice or Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court of the Colony, each of whom, when sitting in this Court, is styled "the Judge of the Circuit Court."

(b) With very few exceptions the Court has the same criminal and civil jurisdiction in the Protectorate as the Supreme Court has in the Colony. Divorce and matrimonial causes are, however, specially withdrawn from its jurisdiction.

(c) The Court also hears appeals from decisions of District Commissioners in both criminal and civil causes.

(ii) *Courts of District Commissioners* (Ordinance No. 40 of 1932).

(a) In each district there is a Court constituted by the District Commissioner and known as "the Court of the District Commissioner" or "The District Court."

A Provincial Commissioner, who is in charge of a group of districts known as a Province, has the same jurisdiction as a District Commissioner in each of those districts. (Ordinance No. 32 of 1933.)

An Assistant District Commissioner has the same jurisdiction as a District Commissioner in the district in which he is stationed, if appointed by the District Commissioner to exercise it. (Ordinance No. 32 of 1933.)

(b) The criminal jurisdiction of these Courts is practically the same as that of the Magistrates' Courts in the Colony. They can commit persons for trial before the Circuit Court, or, in very rare cases, before the Supreme Court of the Colony. They also possess a civil jurisdiction in most cases up to £50.

(iii) *Courts of Native Chiefs* (Ordinance No. 40 of 1932).

The Courts are composed of native chiefs and have a limited civil and criminal jurisdiction in cases arising exclusively between natives of the Protectorate, other than

persons employed in the Government service. They are subject in all respects to supervision of the District Commissioner who can amend, vary or set aside any of their decisions or sentences.

(iv) *Combined Courts (Ordinance No. 40 of 1932).*

In certain chiefdoms where there is a considerable number of non-natives settled or residing, the Paramount Chief and a non-native appointed by the District Commissioner, subject to confirmation by the Governor, sit as " Joint Judges " to decide petty civil cases arising between non-natives and natives. The orders of this Court may be enforced by the District Commissioner who can review its decision in all cases.

Criminal Cases tried in the Police Magistrate's Court, Freetown, 1938.

<i>Offences.</i>	<i>Cases reported.</i>	<i>Persons arrested.</i>	<i>Persons convicted.</i>	<i>Persons discharged.</i>	<i>Persons Committed for trial.</i>
Assault and Battery ...	236	236	134	102	—
Harbour Offences ...	18	18	15	3	—
Stowaways ...	24	24	23	1	—
Customs Offences ...	19	19	15	4	—
Housebreaking ...	8	8	—	2	6
Burglary ...	1	1	—	—	1
Larceny ...	521	521	408	109	4
Larceny from Ship ...	6	6	2	4	—
Public Health Offences	469	469	386	83	—
Shopbreaking ...	4	4	—	1	3
Larceny from a Person	42	42	38	4	—
Breach of Immigration Restriction Law ...	8	8	6	2	—
Selling Palm Wine without Licence ...	18	18	18	—	—
Disorderly conduct ...	146	146	94	52	—
Fighting ...	38	38	29	9	—
Drunk ...	9	9	9	—	—
Wounding ...	33	33	17	15	1
Totals ...	1,600	1,600	1,194	391	15

Juveniles.

Larceny ...	26	26	24	2	—
Assault and Battery ...	4	4	4	—	—
Throwing Stones ...	1	1	1	—	—
Committing Nuisance...	2	2	2	—	—
Unlawful Possession ...	3	3	2	1	—
Acting as a Guide ...	1	1	1	—	—
Totals ...	37	37	34	3	—

Return of Criminal Cases tried in the Circuit Court during the year 1938.

<i>District.</i>	<i>Number of persons prosecuted.</i>	<i>Number of persons imprisoned.</i>	<i>Number of persons fined or otherwise punished.</i>	<i>Number of persons condemned.</i>	<i>Number of persons discharged.</i>
Bombali ...	7	6	—	—	1
Kenema ...	4	2	—	1	1
Kailahun ...	3	2	—	1	—
Kono ...	4	2	—	1	1
Koinadugu ...	1	—	—	—	1
Bo ...	2	2	—	—	—
Moyamba ...	6	5	—	1	—
Port Loko ...	6	4	1	—	1
Tonkolili ...	6	4	—	1	1
Pujehun ...	2	1	1	—	—
Bonthe ...	2	2	—	—	—
Totals ...	43	30	2	5	6

Police.

During the year 1938, the strength of the Police Force was increased by 12 3rd Class constables.

Prisons.

There are now eleven prisons administered by the Prisons Department, which have been established as follows:—

Colony.—Freetown, convict and local; Bonthe, local.

Protectorate.—Northern Province, local prisons; Port Loko, Kabala, Makeni, Batkanu, Tonkolili,
Southern Province, local prisons; Kenema, Moyamba, Pujehun, Sefadu.

The number of persons committed to the central prison at Freetown during the year 1938 was as follows:—

Males ...	820
Females ...	8
Juvenile adults ...	11
Juvenile offenders ...	—

The total daily average number in custody was 212.4.

The number of persons committed to the local prisons of the Colony and Protectorate during the year 1938 was:—

Males ...	744
Females ...	3

The daily average in custody was 148.26.

Health.—The general health of the prisoners was good. The total number of deaths at all prisons was three, compared with four in 1937.

Industries.—Short-sentence prisoners were employed in the kitchen garden, and on general labouring, quarrying stone, sanitary work and maintaining fruit trees on Government land. Long-sentence prisoners were engaged in the usual industries which consist of tailoring, tarpaulin, and mattress making, bread-making, carpentry, blacksmithing and book-binding.

XIV.—LEGISLATION.

The more important Ordinances enacted during 1938 were:—

The Forced Labour (Amendment) Ordinance, 1938.

The Employers and Employed (Amendment) Ordinance, 1938.

The Education Ordinance, 1938.

The Regulation of Docks Ordinance, 1938.

The Legal Practitioners (Disciplinary Committee) Ordinance, 1938.

The Supreme Court (Amendment) Ordinance, 1938.

The Forced Labour (Amendment) Ordinance, 1938, gives power to a Provincial Commissioner to require any Chief to commute all or any of the personal services to which he is entitled for a fixed cash payment or a share of the crops harvested by the people or of the produce collected by them. When once such personal services have been commuted it is unlawful for the Chief or his successors to exact them in the future.

The Employers and Employed (Amendment) Ordinance, 1938, provides the hours of night during which it shall be unlawful to employ women and young persons in industrial undertakings; power is given to the Governor to declare the hours of night to be ten consecutive hours instead of eleven as provided by the Principal Ordinance, for a not longer period than 60 days in certain circumstances. The Education Ordinance, 1938, brings into existence a Board of Education consisting of the Director of Education and three members of the staff of the Education Department, not less than four persons nominated by the schools already in existence in Sierra Leone and such other persons as may be appointed by the Governor. Among its other duties the Board is empowered to advise the Governor in matters of rule making concerning, *inter alia*, the buildings in which schools may be conducted, the making of Government grants to schools, missionary and educational societies and to schools maintained by Tribal Authorities in the

Protectorate, the inspection of such schools, the registration and conditions of service of teachers, and the provision of scholarships from public funds. The Ordinance empowers the Governor to prohibit the opening of any new school which does not conform with the requirements of the Board and to close down an existing school where the Board represents that it is improperly conducted.

The Regulation of Docks Ordinance, 1938, gives effect to the provisions of an International Labour Convention and gives power to the Governor-in-Council to make rules to ensure, so far as possible, the safety of persons employed in docks, wharves and quays.

The Legal Practitioners (Disciplinary Committee) Ordinance, 1938, sets up a Committee which may enquire into any allegation of professional misconduct on the part of any legal practitioner. The Committee consists of the Attorney-General and the Solicitor-General, both *ex officio*, and three unofficial members of the legal profession nominated by the Sierra Leone Bar Association. In the event of the Committee being satisfied that an allegation of misconduct has been made out as a result of an enquiry, at which the accused legal practitioner shall have the right of presenting his case, the Committee shall present a report to the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court, after hearing the practitioner concerned and after such further enquiry as it may deem necessary, may take such disciplinary action against the offending practitioner as the circumstances seem to warrant.

The Supreme Court (Amendment) Ordinance, 1938, as its principal provision, sets out the qualification required for an appointment to a Judgeship upon the Supreme Court Bench. It provides that a person selected for such appointment shall have been qualified to practise as an advocate in Courts of unlimited civil or criminal jurisdiction in Great Britain and Northern Ireland or in any other part of His Majesty's Dominions for a period of not less than five years.

No factory legislation, as such, exists, but there is provision in the Minerals Ordinance for the inspection of mine workings. The Employers and Employed Ordinance contains provisions for the restriction and prohibition of the employment of children and young persons in certain industrial undertakings, for the betterment of working conditions generally and for the imposition, when and where it is thought necessary, of minimum wages. The question of workmen's compensation and other kindred matters are at present receiving the attention of the Government.

XV.—BANKING, CURRENCY, AND WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

Banking.

Banking facilities are afforded by the Bank of British West Africa, Limited, and Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial, and Overseas). The former is established at Freetown (local head office) with a branch at Bonthe (Sherbro) and agencies at the more important trading centres. Barclays Bank is established at Freetown, and has no branches or agencies.

Both banks afford their customers savings bank facilities. In addition there is the Government (Post Office) Savings Bank, controlled from Freetown, with twenty-three agencies throughout the Colony and Protectorate. The balance standing to the credit of depositors in the Post Office Savings Bank on 31st December, 1938, was £89,016 16s. 8½d.

There are no agricultural or co-operative banks. The absence of realizable security and direct ownership properly registered precludes the possibility of the introduction of the former.

Currency.

The coins current in Sierra Leone are:—

United Kingdom gold, silver, and bronze coins;

West African silver coins, value 2s., 1s., 6d., 3d.;

West African alloy coins value of the same denominations; and

West African nickel-bronze coins of the value of 1d., ½d.

The United Kingdom coins have been superseded by the West African coins. The West African silver coins authorized by the Sierra Leone and Gambia Coinage Order, 1913, and introduced in that year are being withdrawn from circulation. Other West African coins of mixed metals of the same denominations and of the same weights, and authorised by His Majesty's Order in Council of February, 1920, were introduced in July, 1920, to replace the silver coins.

Gold and silver coins are legal tender up to any amount and copper and nickel-bronze coins up to one shilling.

West African currency notes of the values £5, 20s., 10s., 2s., and 1s., were introduced in 1916 under the Currency Note Ordinance of that year. Currency notes of the value of 20s. and 10s. are now in circulation, the £5, 2s., and 1s. having been withdrawn. A new issue of the West African currency notes of 20s. and 10s. denomination was put into circulation on 1st July, 1928; the old issue notes are being withdrawn.

Weights and Measures.

There has been no addition to the standards and no new legislation relating to the inspection of weights and measures in the Colony.

XVI.—PUBLIC FINANCE AND TAXATION.**Revenue and Expenditure.**

The financial year closed on the 31st December, 1938, showing the financial position of the Colony to be as follows:—

	£	£
Excess of Assets over Liabilities on 1st January, 1938		383,885
Revenue, 1938	886,149	
Expenditure, 1938	910,077	
Add Depreciation of Investments	17,181	
	<hr/>	
	927,258	
Excess of Expenditure over Revenue		<hr/> 41,109
Balance of Assets over Liabilities on 31st December, 1938		342,776

The Revenue and Expenditure of the Colony for the past five years were:—

	<i>Revenue.</i>	<i>Expenditure.</i>
	£	£
1934	598,839	603,208
1935	678,978	585,574
1936	969,668	879,370*
1937	1,025,709	919,266
1938	886,149	910,077

* Includes £208,277 transferred to Reserve Funds.

The funded debt of the Colony on the 31st December, 1938, was £1,288,259 against which the accumulated sinking funds, for its amortization, amounted to £128,678.

Assets.

The assets of the Colony as disclosed in the Balance Sheet for the year ended 31st December, 1938, amounted to £932,488 made up as follows:—

	£
Reserve and surplus Funds invested....	503,210
Other investments	115,366
Stores*	—
Loans*	—
Advances	85,201
Cash	228,711

* Now charged to expenditure.

Taxation.

The main heads of taxation from which revenue was derived in 1938 were:—

	£
Customs	402,396
Port, Harbour and Lighthouse dues ...	17,135
Licences and Internal Revenue ...	38,249
Taxes	238,272

Customs Tariff Imports.

Preferential duties were introduced in Sierra Leone in May, 1932, and quotas on imports of textiles from foreign countries were imposed as from the 16th June, 1934. On 23rd November, 1938, the method of assessment of duty on goods paying an ad valorem duty was changed. The basis of valuation which was formerly a first cost became a c.i.f. There are no treaty obligations. The tariff is mainly specific. All edible provisions and articles ordinarily used for human consumption, not specifically mentioned in the tariff, however, pay an ad valorem duty of 8 per cent. (Preferential) and 20 per cent. (General). On all goods, wares and merchandise not included in any item in the tariff an ad valorem duty is levied of 16 per cent. (Preferential) and 32 per cent. (General).

Some of the more important duties levied on imported goods are: cotton piece-goods—bleached, 1d. per sq. yd. (Preferential) and 2d. per sq. yd. (General); coloured and dyed, 1½d. per sq. yd. (Preferential) and 3d. per sq. yd. (General); grey ¾d. per sq. yd. (Preferential) and 1½d. per sq. yd. (General) and printed, 1¼d. per sq. yd. (Preferential) and 2½d. per sq. yd. (General). Cotton yarn, 3d. per lb. (Preferential) and 6d. per lb. (General); fish, canned or otherwise preserved, 6s. 3d. per 100 lb. (Preferential) and 12s. 6d. per 100 lb. (General); flour, free (Preferential) and 1s. per 100 lb. (General); lard 8s. 4d. per 100 lb. (Preferential) and 16s. 8d. per 100 lb. (General); matches, 1s. 6d. per gross of boxes (Preferential) and 3s. 6d. per gross of boxes (General); meat, canned or bottled, 10s. 5d. per 100 lb. (Preferential) and £1 0s. 10d. per 100 lb. (General); milk, condensed or otherwise preserved, free (Preferential) and 4s. per 36 lb. (General); kerosene, 7d. per imperial gallon (Preferential) and 9d. per imperial gallon (General); motor spirit, 8d. per imperial gallon (Preferential) and 11d. per imperial gallon (General); edible oil other than Soya bean 2d. per imperial gallon (Preferential) and 8d. per imperial gallon (General); onions, free (Preferential) and ¼d. (General); potatoes, ¼d. lb. (Preferential) and ½d. per lb. (General); table salt, 1s. 8d. per 100 lb. (Preferential) and 3s. 4d. per 100 lb. (General); coarse salt, 1s. per cwt. (Preferential) and 2s. 9d. per cwt. (General); artificial silk piece-goods, 2d per sq. yd. (Preferential) and 6d. per sq. yd. (General); silk

piece-goods, 1s. 6d. per lb. (Preferential) and 4s. 6d. per lb. (General); toilet soap, 12s. 6d. per 100 lb. (Preferential) and £1 5s. per 100 lb. (General); soap, other kinds, 7s. 6d. per cwt. (Preferential) and 15s. per cwt. (General).

On spirits (50 per cent. volume of alcohol) duty is levied at the rate of £1 13s. 6d. per imperial gallon (Preferential) and £1 16s. per imperial gallon (General), and on wines (still), 3s. per imperial gallon (Preferential) and 6s. per imperial gallon (General). Beer and ale, stout and porter pay at 1s. 6d. per imperial gallon (Preferential) and 3s. per imperial gallon (General).

Unmanufactured tobacco is subject to a duty of 1s. 4d. per lb. (Preferential) and 1s. 8d. per lb. (General); manufactured tobacco pays from 6s. 6d. per lb. (Preferential) to 8s. 8d. per lb. (General) and cigarettes from 1s. 6d. per 100 (Preferential) to 2s. 6d. per 100 (General). The duty leviable on lumber is 15s. per 1,000 superficial feet (Preferential) and £1 10s. per 1,000 superficial feet (General).

Export Duties.

The following exports are subject to duty:—palm kernels, £1 a ton; kola nuts, $\frac{1}{2}$ d. a lb.

Royalties.

The following royalties are levied on minerals exported from the Colony: on chromite, 10d. per ton; on ilmenite, 1s. per ton; on platinum, 5 per cent. on the value; on crude gold, 9 per cent. on the ascertained value of the combined gold and silver content of the crude metal as shown by the refiner's certificate.

Drawbacks.

The usual provision is made for payment of drawback, 95 per cent. of duties paid on imported goods being allowed.

Wines, spirits, petroleum products, tobacco, arms and ammunition, gunpowder, West African products (excluding Liberian coffee) and manufactures, potatoes and onions are excluded from this benefit.

Excise and Stamp Duties.

Under a Stamp Duty Ordinance, stamp duties are levied on cheques, bills of exchange, deeds, legal documents, probates, etc. The aggregate collections in 1938 amounted to £644.

There are no Excise duties, but revenue is derived from Licences, as follows:—

Auctioneers, hawkers, spirits, store, wine and beer, petroleum, motor vehicles, dog and game licences, etc.

Pawnbroker, bicycle, showkeepers and hotel licences, etc., are levied by the Freetown City Council.

House Tax.

A house tax of five shillings per house is levied throughout the Protectorate and yields approximately £80,000 annually. The District Commissioners control the collections in the various chiefdoms, but the native chiefs are responsible and receive a remuneration of 5 per cent. on such collections. The assessment is made biennially or triennially by Assistant District Commissioners as occasion arises, aided by the Paramount Chiefs. House Tax in Freetown and Sherbro Judicial District is assessed on the value of the property and varies in different years. House tax in the remainder of Colony villages is at a fixed rate of five shillings per house.

Poll Tax.

Under the Non-native Poll Tax Ordinance every non-native is required to pay an annual tax of £4.

XVII.—MISCELLANEOUS.

Surveys.

Topographical Surveys.—No funds or staff were available for topographical surveys during the year. The position as regards the Topographical Survey of the Protectorate that was completed in 1931 and which comprises 109 field sheets on the 1/62,500 scale, remains the same as before. Only 45 of the sheets have been published. The remaining 64 sheets are reproduced and issued in sunprint form. The demand for the unpublished sheets again exceeded that for the previous year. Four hundred and seven hand-tinted sunprints were issued against 168 for 1937. The survey now requires revision. Until this has been done no more sheets will be published. It is expected that staff will be available to commence the revision early next year.

Cadastral Surveys.—The number of applications for mining surveys was considerably less than for any other year since 1935. One hundred and fifty-six applications comprising 142 for Mining Rights, two for Special Exclusive Prospecting Licences and one for a Mining Lease, were received, examined and reports on them submitted to the Mines Office. Only three field parties were employed on these surveys against seven for 1937. Sixty-one surveys were completed. The number of outstanding surveys at the end of the year was 101.

The extension of the Freetown Town Survey, to include the rapidly expanding building areas to the South-west of the City, which was commenced in 1937 was completed during the year.

In all, five new sheets on the 1/1250 scale were surveyed, drawn up with contours, and issued in sunprint form.

The main framework of the Colony was further broken down along the new Peninsula Circular Road to provide points for the Colony Cadastral Survey which is now being carried out by the staff released from the Minefield.

In connection with this, twenty-one miles of theodolite traverses were run and nine new trig points established during the year.

A large number of miscellaneous surveys were carried out for the military authorities and for the Colonial Government.

Lands Branch.—Rents for tenancies of Crown Lands amounting to £506 19s. 3d. were collected. Twenty-five New Tenancy Agreements and 11 Fish Trap Licences were granted and 38 Tenancy Agreements terminated.

The work of inspecting and maintaining Crown Lands was carried on as usual. In connection with road widening and construction nearly 150 claims were settled during the year. Action was taken under the unoccupied Lands Ordinance at Kissy Village, several unclaimed plots being acquired by the Crown. In addition much work was done for the War Department, rents being collected and various acquisitions of land dealt with.

General.—The value of maps supplied to other Government Departments during the year amounted to £270 11s. 6d. against £112 6s. 6d. for 1937. Sale of maps to the public realised £82 14s. 4d. Revenue from Mining Surveys amounted to £1,524 10s. 5d.

Geological Survey.—Further progress was made in the Geological Survey of the Protectorate on the scale 1/62,500, and a more detailed survey was continued in the vicinity of some of the mining areas. The mineral Columbite—Tantatite was identified in concentrates obtained from the Tonkolili and Pampana Rivers, and some of these have been submitted to the Imperial Institute for partial analysis. Numerous rock and mineral specimens were identified and reported upon for the mining community. A geological map of Sierra Leone on the scale 1/500,000 and several mineral exhibits were prepared for the British Empire Exhibition at Glasgow, and the Officer in charge of the geological survey served one month of his leave as assistant commissioner at the Sierra Leone exhibit in the West African Pavilion of the Exhibition.

APPENDIX.

List of certain Publications obtainable from the Crown Agents for the Colonies, 4, Millbank, Westminster, London, S.W.1, and from the Government Printer, George Street, Freetown.

							<i>Revised Rates for Gazettes and Legislation.</i>		
							£	s.	d.
<i>Royal Gazette</i> , inclusive of all Supplements ; Annual Subscription, inland							1	5	0
<i>Royal Gazette</i> , inclusive of all Supplements ; Annual Subscription, Overseas							1	10	0
							<i>For current or previous year.</i>		<i>For any prior year.</i>
							s.	d.	s. d.
<i>Royal Gazette</i> , single copies, inclusive of " <i>Special Supplements</i> " only							6		1 0
Trade Supplement (postage 1d. extra)							3		6
Legislative Supplements, or separate copies of Ordinances, Rules, &c., not exceeding—									
8 pages							4		8
9-16 „							6		1 0
17-32 „							9		1 6
33-48 „							1 3		2 6
49-64 „							1 6		3 0
65-96 „							2 0		4 0
Exceeding 96 pages							2 6		5 0

Including postage.

The foregoing rates will apply to all Supplements or Legislation already in stock, regardless of any price printed thereon.

		<i>Price.</i>		<i>Postage.</i>	
		s.	d.	s.	d.
Blue Book, 1925, 1926, 1927, 1928 each	...	12	6	1	4
Blue Book, 1929, 1930, 1933, 1934, 1935, 1936 each	...	12	6	1	2
Blue Book, 1937	...	12	6	1	7
• Legislative Council Debates—No. 1 of any year	...	1	6		2½
Legislative Council Debates—Subsequent numbers, each	...		6		2
Sierra Leone Studies (abridged edition of Nos. 1, 2, 3)	...	1	0		2
Sierra Leone Studies, Nos. 7-18 and 20, each	...	1	0		2
Sierra Leone Studies, No. 21	...	1	0		3½
Handbook of the Temne Language	...	5	0		3½
Handbook of the Sherbro Language	...	10	6		3
Handbook on the Tse-tse Fly (Austen)	...	5	0		6
Beri-beri and the Freetown Prison	...	10	6		6

	<i>Price.</i>			<i>Postage.</i>	
	£	s.	d.	s.	d.
The Birds of Tropical West Africa, Vol. 1 by D. A. Bannerman	1	2	6	1	0
Report on Potential Rice Lands, by R. R. Glanville		2	6		1½
Tide Table, 1939			4		1
Sierra Leone Country Cloths, by Dr. M. C. F. Easmon	1	0			2
Introduction to Geography of Sierra Leone ...	1	4			2
History of Royal West African Frontier Force, by Lieut. R. P. M. Davis		7	6		2½
A Limba-English and English-Limba Dictionary, by Mary Lane Clarke		5	0		4
Report on the application of the principles of Native Administration to the Protectorate of Sierra Leone, by J. S. Fenton, O.B.E. ...	1	6			1
Customs Trade Report, 1936	5	0			5
Customs Trade Report, 1937	5	0			7

Reports, etc., of Imperial and Colonial Interest

THE FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC POSITION OF NORTHERN RHODESIA

Report of the Commission

[Colonial No. 145] 7s. (7s. 6d.)

LABOUR CONDITIONS IN NORTHERN RHODESIA

Report by Major G. St. J. Orde Browne, O.B.E.

[Colonial No. 150] 2s. (2s. 3d.)

NYASALAND. FINANCIAL POSITION AND FURTHER DEVELOPMENT

Report of Commission

[Colonial No. 152] 10s. (10s. 6d.)

RHODESIA-NYASALAND ROYAL COMMISSION

Report

[Cmd. 5949] 7s. 6d. (7s. 11d.)

LABOUR CONDITIONS IN THE WEST INDIES

Report by Major G. St. J. Orde Browne, O.B.E.

[Cmd. 6070] 3s. 6d. (3s. 10d.)

THE SYSTEM OF APPOINTMENT IN THE COLONIAL OFFICE AND THE COLONIAL SERVICES

Report of Committee

[Cmd. 3554 (1930)] 1s. (1s. 1d.)

LEAVE AND PASSAGE CONDITIONS FOR THE COLONIAL SERVICE

Report of Committee

[Cmd. 4730 (1934)] 9d. (10d.)

PENSIONS TO WIDOWS AND ORPHANS OF OFFICERS IN THE COLONIAL SERVICE, AND COLONIAL PROVIDENT FUNDS

Report of Committee

[Cmd. 5219] 1s. (1s. 1d.)

COLONIAL STUDENTS

Report of the Colonial Students Committee appointed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies, December, 1938

[Colonial No. 161] 9d. (10d.)

Lists are issued showing schedules of Offices in the following Colonial Services with the names and brief biographical records of the holders. Each list includes the Special Regulations by the Secretary of State relating to the Service concerned :—

Colonial Administrative Service List [Colonial No. 147] 2s. 6d. (2s. 8d.)

Colonial Agricultural Service List [Colonial No. 157] 1s. 3d. (1s. 5d.)

Colonial Audit Service List [Colonial No. 162] 4d. (5d.)

Colonial Forest Service List [Colonial No. 163] 6d. (7d.)

Colonial Legal Service List [Colonial No. 172] 9d. (10d.)

Colonial Medical Service List [Colonial No. 159] 1s. 3d. (1s. 5d.)

Colonial Police Service List [Colonial No. 168] 1s. (1s. 2d.)

Colonial Veterinary Service List [Colonial No. 160] 6d. (7d.)

All prices are net. Those in brackets include postage

Obtainable from

HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

LONDON, W.C.2 : York House, Kingsway

EDINBURGH 2 : 120, George Street

MANCHESTER 1 : 26, York Street

CARDIFF : 1, St. Andrew's Crescent

BELFAST : 80, Chichester Street

or through any bookseller

COLONIAL ANNUAL REPORTS

H.M. Stationery Office publishes the Annual Reports on the Social and Economic Progress of the Peoples of the Colonies and Protectorates, most of which contain a map of the Dependency concerned. More than 40 Reports appear each year and they are supplied at the Subscription price of 50s. per annum. (This rate does not include Mandated Territories.) Individual Reports may also be purchased and standing orders placed for their annual supply

ADEN
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BARBADOS
BERMUDA
BRITISH GUIANA
BRITISH HONDURAS
BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS
PROTECTORATE
BRUNEI, STATE OF
CAYMAN ISLANDS (JAMAICA)
CEYLON
CYPRUS
FALKLAND ISLANDS
FEDERATED MALAY STATES
FIJI
THE GAMBIA
GIBRALTAR
GILBERT & ELLICE ISLANDS
GOLD COAST
GRENADA
HONG KONG
JAMAICA
JOHORE
KEDAH

KELANTAN
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ST. HELENA
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SIERRA LEONE
SOMALILAND
STRAITS SETTLEMENTS
TONGAN ISLANDS
PROTECTORATE
TRENGGANU
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO
TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS
UGANDA
ZANZIBAR PROTECTORATE

BASUTOLAND
BECHUANALAND
PROTECTORATE

SWAZILAND

MANDATED TERRITORIES

Annual Reports are published on the undermentioned territories administered by H.M. Government under mandate from the League of Nations

PALESTINE AND TRANS-JORDAN
TANGANYIKA TERRITORY

CAMEROONS under British Mandate
TOGOLAND under British Mandate

*Further particulars as to the latest reports and prices are obtainable
from the Sale Offices of*

HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES

Publications issued by the Governments of British Colonies, Protectorates, and Mandated Territories can be obtained from the CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES, 4, Millbank, Westminster, S.W.1. They include Departmental Reports, Laws, Handbooks, etc.